

Should I or Shouldn't I (2)

Romans 14-15:2

Rules to follow when dealing with issues of conscience:

- Determine within yourself to be an accepting saint not a condemning sinner. (vv. 1a, 15:7) **Why?**
 - Not every believer is strong in the faith.
- Don't argue with people who have different personal convictions. (v. 1b, Phil. 2:14, 2 Tim. 2:14, 23-24)
- If you're stronger in their faith, don't look down on those who are weaker in the faith. (vv. 3a, 10b, 15:1)
- If you're weaker in the faith, don't condemn those stronger in the faith. (vv. 3b, 4a, 10a, 13a)
 - God has accepted them where they are in their faith. (v. 3c)
 - We are not their judge God is. (vv. 4b, 10c-12)
- Be more interested in pleasing the Lord than pleasing ourselves or others. (vv. 5-9, 15:1b-2)
- Make sure your actions are done out of love. (vv. 14-19)
 - If you don't do these things:**
 - You might ruin a believer's faith. V. 15b)
 - You'll be criticized for your actions. (v. 16)
 - If you do these things:**
 - You'll please God. (v. 18a)
 - Others will approve of your behavior. (v. 18b)
- Concentrate on building one another up not tearing one another apart. (vv. 19-23)

Points to Ponder:

- Our concern over the spiritual health of our brothers and sisters in Christ should override our individual freedoms!
- Any action we do that causes someone to stumble in their faith is a sinful action!
- Any action we do that violates my conscience is a sinful action!