

**Taking Liberties**  
**Romans 14**  
By Russell Earl

Thesis: I want to show what we can learn about Christian liberties in Romans 14.

- Intro:
1. There are many ideas concerning Christian liberty.
  2. The Apostle Paul addresses the concept of liberty in Romans 14.

I. The Weak, the Strong & Compassion

A. The Weak & the Strong

1. The stronger are those who have a greater degree of understanding, here in matters of opinion. (**Rom. 14:1-2, 22-23**).
  - a. The stronger faith, for example, understands that certain meats, formally “unclean” under the Mosaic law (Lev. 11), are no longer forbidden to those in Christ (**Acts 10:11-16**).

B. Compassion for the weak

1. The “strong” Christian must exercise patience so as to understand that the “weak” do not understand such things (**Rom. 14:2-3**).
2. Therefore the strong must extend compassion and long suffering, allowing the weak time to grow, thus reaching a level of comprehension wherein he can move forward in Christ without violating his conscience (**Rom. 14:13, 15-16**).

II. Christian Liberties

A. Where liberties can be taken

1. Liberties can only be taken where there are no doctrinal conflicts with God’s word.
  - a. Examples include – meeting times, number of songs in a worship service, number of Bible studies during the week.
  - b. Foods to be eaten, etc

B. Where liberties cannot be taken

1. We do not have the liberty to change God’s pattern for worship, salvation, the home, the marriage bond, etc.
2. Such changes contradict the word of God and are thus sinful

III. Lessons for Us Today

A. Be aware of your conscience (**Romans 14:23, Pro 14:12**)

1. If we are not comfortable with something we should not do it, this is a basic concept that should be taught and easily understood even by children.

B. The ultimate judgment belongs to God. (**Rom. 14:10**)

1. In matters of opinion God is the final judge.
2. We will be condemn when we go against our conscience and the word of God.
  - a. We have already seen where we can take liberties and where we cannot.

Application & Conclusion:

1. We must not do things that may cause someone to stumble (**Rom 14:13**)
2. Most stumbling blocks can be easily avoided, we must consider the conscience of others without forgetting who is the ultimate judge.
3. Full Invitation

Non-Christians must:

Hear – James 1:22, Romans 10:15,17

Believe – Jn 12:44, Jn 8:24, Mt 16:16

Repent – Luke 13:2-3

Confess – John 12:42, Romans 10:9

Be Baptized – 1 Pt 3:21, Acts 22:16, Col 2:11-12, Mk 16:16, Rom 6:3-4

Live faithfully – John 14:15, Rev 2:10

Christians must:

Repent & Pray: James 5:16, 1 John 1:9