

Righteousness, Peace and Joy

November 11, 2018

Thank you so much for choosing to worship with us today! We are thrilled you are here!

Therefore, let us stop passing judgment on one another. Instead, make up your mind not to put any stumbling block or obstacle in the way of a brother or sister. I am convinced, being fully persuaded in the Lord Jesus, that nothing is unclean in itself. But if anyone regards something as unclean, then for that person it is unclean. If your brother or sister is distressed because of what you eat, you are no longer acting in love. Do not by your eating destroy someone for whom Christ died. Therefore, do not let what you know is good be spoken of as evil. For the kingdom of God is not a matter of eating and drinking, but of righteousness, peace and joy in the Holy Spirit, because anyone who serves Christ in this way is pleasing to God and receives human approval. Let us therefore make every effort to do what leads to peace and to mutual edification. Do not destroy the work of God for the sake of food. All food is clean, but it is wrong for a person to eat anything that causes someone else to stumble. It is better not to eat meat or drink wine or to do anything else that will cause your brother or sister to fall. So whatever you believe about these things keep between yourself and God. Blessed is the one who does not condemn himself by what he approves. But whoever has doubts is condemned if they eat, because their eating is not from faith; and everything that does not come from faith is sin.

Romans 14:13-23

When was the last time you really made the effort to live at peace with others for their sake? A time when your concern was greater for them than it was for what you believed or thought was best for you?

We tend to judge others by our own convictions. We draw a line in the sand and dare anyone to cross it. And when they do, we write them off and condemn them. The problem is not about taking the stand. It is about how we take that stand – for or against something. In this chapter Paul talks about eating, drinking, and observance of days. Read it again and replace those issues with ours today. And then reflect on these words, “the Kingdom of God is about righteousness, peace, and joy in the Holy Spirit.”

Reach out in faith to someone with whom you disagree and make ‘every effort for peace and mutual edification’.

All Things for Christ,
Michael