

LOVE: Learning to Yield

Scripture: Romans 14:13-23
(03-08-26 Pastor Tony Hao)

If you're driving and come across the "YIELD" sign, what should you do? You stop and give way. This important sign is a matter of life and death. In Romans 14, Paul gives three principles to motivate believers to pursue love, because he knows that selfishness will destroy the church.

First, be a steppingstone to faith, not a stumblingblock (14:13-18). Paul warns on putting a "stumbling block" or "obstacle" in another's path. A stumbling block is something that trips a person up in their walk with Jesus, causing them to fall away from their faith. He's talking about not injuring a Christian's spiritual life to the extent that they risk falling away.

Second, give up your rights for the sake of peace (14:19-21). Whenever you are doing something that threatens the peace of a church, or an individual, so that they cannot handle it or become angry, then back off. You who are strong, bear that burden. Do not insist on your rights.

Third, act by faith not by doubt (14:22-23). Whatever in our life is not an expression of our dependence on and trust in God is marked by human presumption and pride, and therefore sin. Every decision must spring up from a dependence on God, a complete trust in total sufficiency of Christ.

GROWING DEEPER (Reflection & Application)

1. What is causing disunity in the church at Rome? What attitudes do you see among believers there with those they disagree (14:13, 19, 22)?
2. What principles should guide believers when dealing with differences of opinion on matters that do not violate moral laws?
3. Instead of judging, what should occupy the energy of believers (14:13, 17-18)?
4. What have you done in the past six months that has lead "to peace and to mutual edification" among fellow believers in church?