

Living by Faith

Romans 14:1-12

8/ 28/ 05

Intro

This last section of Romans begins in chapter 12 where Paul writes that we should not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of the mind.

He then writes several chapters describing what that looks like.

In these verses, Paul is describing the life of faith, but faith in a different perspective than we normally consider it. He refers to a faith that applies to the everyday way we live. Here Paul is not referring to accomplishing great venture by faith, or believing God for a miracle.

Here Paul is teaching us about everyday faith. Faith that applies to the stuff of every hour; the decisions we make by the hundreds and he teaches us that we should do this by faith.

These are the principles of living by faith every day and in every area of our lives.

I. Whatever is Not of Faith is Sin

A. Faith is living before the Lord

- Faith is applied to our lives in how we live.
- When we live before the Lord, or in other words, aware of His presence in our lives, we are living by faith.
- In Hebrews we see the importance of believing God and seeking Him in our lives.

Hebrews 11:6, “And without faith it is impossible to please Him, for he who comes to God must believe that He is and that He is a rewarder of those who seek Him.”

- King Hezekiah is an example of the importance of living before the Lord with all his heart and that God blessed it.

II Chronicles 31:20-21, “Thus Hezekiah did throughout all Judah; and he did what was good, right and true before the Lord his God. Every work which he began in the service of the house of God in law and in commandment, seeking his God, he did with all his heart and prospered.”

B. Faith applies to everyday life

- Romans 14 is one of the best chapters to show the day to day living of faith.
- We need to apply faith to whatever we do. How we live and what we do is important to the Lord. Paul writes that it even applies to what we eat.

Romans 14:2, “One person has faith that he may eat all things, but he who is weak eats vegetables only.”

- Paul also shows us that we should live by faith “in the flesh” because of who we are in Christ.

Galatians 2:20-21, “I have been crucified with Christ; and it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me; and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself up for me.”

C. Sin is not living before the Lord

- Paul onto say something very powerful in verse 23 that has great application in everyday living.

Romans 14:23, “But he who doubts is condemned if he eats, because his eating is not from faith; and whatever is not from faith is sin.”

- In other words, whatever we do, we should do out of faith, or living before the Lord, pleasing the Lord.

Ephesians 5:8-10, “for you were formerly darkness, but now you are Light in the Lord; walk as children of Light (for the fruit of the Light consists in all goodness and righteousness and truth), trying to learn what is pleasing to the Lord.”

Illus – “Can you do it out of faith?” is a question that can help guide everything we do.

II. Be Fully Convinced By Faith

A. Faith brings convictions in how to live

- Faith will bring convictions about the things we do in life. In other words, because of my faith in God, I believe I should not drink.
- Others may drink, and I will not judge them at all for it, but I believe that as a pastor, I should not drink to help those who struggle with this.
- Paul uses the illustration of keeping one day above another. He is saying that it is not right or wrong in itself, but let each be convinced in his own heart.

Illus – Can you fish with three fishing poles by faith? That depends...

I Thessalonians 1:5, “for our gospel did not come to you in word only, but also in power and in the Holy Spirit and with full conviction; just as you know what kind of men we proved to be among you for your sake.”

B. If in doubt; don't

- If you're not sure you can do something “as unto the Lord,” then don't do it.
- Verse 23, “But he who doubts is condemned if he eats, because his eating is not from faith...”
- There is a powerful result in our lives when we stand in full assurance of our faith.

II Timothy 1:12, “For this reason I also suffer these things, but I am not ashamed; for I know whom I have believed and I am convinced that He is able to guard what I have entrusted to Him until that day.”

- I love the phrase “full assurance of faith.” That is what we need.

Hebrews 10:22-23, “let us draw near with a sincere heart in full assurance of faith, having our hearts sprinkled clean from an evil conscience and our bodies washed with pure water. Let us hold fast the confession of our hope without wavering, for He who promised is faithful;”

C. Sometimes principles collide

- When we are trying to live for God and do the right thing, sometimes we find that principles of good collide with each.
- The answer is to decide to always to that which is the highest good.

James 4:17, “Therefore, to one who knows the right thing to do and does not do it, to him it is sin.”

Illus – When Jordi was pregnant with Chelsea and we had an emergency and had to go to the hospital, we came upon some red lights...

Illus - One of the best biblical illustrations that helps us see this principle is in the life of David when he was running for his life from King Saul.

III. We Will All Stand Before God

A. Therefore do not judge

- Verse 1; Paul began this chapter by writing that we should accept others in their faith.
- In verse 4, Paul writes to not judge another man’s servant. In other words, other believers belong to Christ and we are not their judge.

Illus – It’s always frustrating to know someone who condemns people if they don’t live as they do, then

later when they change their opinion, they condemn what they used to believe.

Matthew 7:2-3, “For in the way you judge, you will be judged; and by your standard of measure, it will be measured to you. Why do you look at the speck that is in your brother's eye, but do not notice the log that is in your own eye?”

- Judging brings division in the body, which of course, does not honor God.
- We shouldn’t judge, but we can ask them to pray about it.

Illus – I had a dispute once with someone and was convinced I was right, but simply asked them to pray. God was the One who changed their mind.

B. We will all give an account

- Paul’s point is that we will all give an accounting of our own lives and that is enough to be concerned with.
- He writes that we will all appear before God’s judgment seat.

II Corinthians 5:10, “For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, so that each one may be recompensed for his deeds in the body, according to what he has done, whether good or bad.”

- Though it is important to remember that it will be a judgment of fire in the sense that what is not of God will be burned up and all else remains.

➤ We should all desire to hear the words...

Matthew 25:21, “His lord said to him, ‘Well done, good and faithful servant; you were faithful over a few things, I will make you ruler over many things. Enter into the joy of your lord.’”

Conclusion

Living by faith comes down to the practical stuff of everyday life. May we have in our hearts a desire to please Him in everything we do and in everything we desire.