



LIFE ON A TIGHTROPE

ROMANS 14:13-23 * OCTOBER 22, 2023

A BALANCING ACT

ROMANS 14:13

* stumbling block (προσκομμα) = a _____
_____ or its resulting bruise or injury.

* obstacle (σκανδαλον) = a _____ (picture
a baited _____ with spring-loaded door).

The balance between _____ our liberty
in Christ and _____ self-control for the
sake of another is not mastered overnight.

FINDING THE RIGHT BALANCE

ROMANS 14:14-23; GALATIANS 5:13; 1 CORINTHIANS 10:23-24

① No thing by itself is _____ or _____.

→ Example: pieces of polished wood or stone are not
evil; the _____ of them is evil.

→ Our choice: love for my own _____ or love
for the _____ of the other believer?

② The substance of Christianity is not found in
_____.

→ Attitudes nurtured in the _____ are to be desired
more than anything we can put into our _____.

→ Our focus: more concerned with the other person's
_____ or with the _____
of Christian growth: obedience, peace, joy, etc.?

③ When my liberty hinders the good of my neighbor,
it must _____.

→ Be _____ of others.

→ Be _____ you can honor God with your
choices.

→ Be _____ in matching your conscience
with your actions.

LIFE GROUP DISCUSSION:

1. When was a time you were talked into participating in an activity that you later regretted?
2. Read Romans 14:13-23. When we are not around those whose faith is weak, what principles should govern our Christian liberty? When we are around those whose faith is weak, what principles should guide our actions, and why?
3. Martin Luther wrote: "A Christian man is a most free lord of all, subject to none. A Christian man is a most dutiful servant of all, subject to all." How do these words summarize this chapter?
4. If you aren't sure whether something is right or wrong, should you do it? Why or why not? If you are sure that something is acceptable (neither required nor forbidden), what considerations might make it wrong to do in certain circumstances?
5. Read Galatians 5:13-15. What is the difference between the two concepts of freedom presented here? Paul accuses the Galatians of "biting and devouring each other." Where do you see these practices among Christians today?
6. Why is it difficult to suppress our own point of view in order to help those who are weaker in the faith? What is the difference between living for the good of others and living to please others?