

God's Answers in Romans: Am I Free From Others' Rules?

1. Read Romans 14:1-15:13 and 1 Corinthians 8:1-13 and 10:18-33.
2. Was there anything in the sermon that concerned you, helped you or confused you?
3. Summarize for each other your understanding of the religious culture that surrounded the Christian church at Rome and Corinth. How did meat often make its way to the marketplace? How did the Roman empire handle the religions of most of the peoples they assimilated?
4. Summarize what the following texts indicate regarding whether or not all sins are equally heinous from God's point of view: John 19:11; Genesis 18:20-21; Deut 4:41; Matt 11:24.
What then do Rom 3:23 and James 2:10-11.
5. Try to summarize how the following types of rules were defined in the sermon:
 - A. Moral
 - B. Ceremonial
 - C. Delegated
 - D. Cultural
6. Which categories would each of the following fall under:
 Being unclean for a while if you touch a corpse.
 Obey the government
 Do not steal
 It is disrespectful to God to remain seated when the Bible is read in church.
7. What are some cultural rules that have been accepted in churches at times? (for example, no dancing)
8. Can you think of any of your own disputable rules or preferences that are important to you or may even feel like they have been carved into your conscience and you just *feel* that something is wrong even though the Bible does not say it is wrong. Have you been the "weaker" brother or sister who told another Christian not to do something and now you realize you were wrong?
9. Have you ever known a Christian who was uncomfortable with something that was not actually immoral and that other Christians were doing? Then he or she went ahead and did it anyway, and that decision was part of their downfall from your point of view? Do you ever do things that are not actually immoral, that other Christians are doing, but you feel guilty when you do them?
10. Why have all the ceremonial rules or code of the Law of Moses been abolished in the New Testament? What would it mean for someone to claim to believe in Jesus and also claim that we must keep the Law of Moses to be right with God? The book of Galatians considers this.
11. How can we pray for you?

Supplemental Materials:

The ceremonial and moral rules together were designed to be a guardian of God's people until the Son of God would come.

- They show us God's holiness and transcendence and our need for a savior
- They also made it incredibly difficult for people to believe in God's Son,
- they knew God was too transcendent to become human
- but the moral and ceremonial rules also created a context to help them to eventually understand who Jesus was and what he had done
- once they were convinced by the resurrection and other miracles.

- **God wanted them to be almost impossible to convince**
- **but to have the context to understand once he convinced them.**