

PRINCIPLES FOR PREFERENCES

Romans 14:1

Preference – (Worthy to be preferred or chosen before something else.)

Conviction - (The act of convincing, proving or compelling one to admit to the truth.)

Humanism - (No absolute right or wrong. Each person has their own rights that may differ from yours. What is right for me may be wrong for you.)

Ephesians 6:13; II Cor. 5:20 We are to stand for the truths of God's word and resist the devil.

Luke 17:26-30 Jesus warned that before His return our world would become as it was in the days of Noah and as the days of Sodom and Gomorrah. We are fast approaching times like He spoke of.

Galatians 6:7 It is not the fault of a lost world, the wicked politicians, the devil or your mother in law that our country is in the mess we are in. It is the fault of the Christian church not standing.

Isaiah 56:10; Hebrews 13:17 Pastors are to give account to God for the leadership of their flock.

Am I Fully Convinced?

Romans 14:1-5 It is clear Paul is addressing believers. There are mature believers and weak believers and he makes it clear that the church has room for both. It is clear that strong believers are not to argue with weaker believers over insignificant things like food, clothing, how we celebrate holidays etc.

Romans 14:17 These issues are neither doctrinal or moral. It has to do with why you do what you do. God wants us all to honor Him with our heart, it is the motive He looks for.

Am I Doing This For The Lord?

Romans 14:6-9 This section shows us a powerful statement against “doing our own thing” or having the attitude that “it is my life so I'll live it the way I want to.” We had best remember that God is in charge because (**I Corinthians 6:19-20**) we are not our own and must take that in consideration.

I Corinthians 10:31 When it comes to issues of preference outside of the church our focus must be if I like to do something and the bible does not specifically oppose it will it hurt or will it glorify God?

Will It Stand The Judgment Seat Test?

Romans 14:10-12 What Paul is really saying is we should stay busy serving God in and trying to live our own lives glorifying Him. We then won't have time to worry about what the brethren are doing that we think is wrong. Instead of judging others we should be spending time judging ourselves.

Am I Causing Others To Stumble?

Romans 14:13-21; 15:1; I Cor. 8:9-13 In matters pertaining to things that are not black and white in scripture we need to take grace into consideration when dealing with the brethren. Whatever we do is to honor God and help edify each other. It does not edify when we try and prove how mature and biblical we are and we offend a brother or sister. Honor God your way and let others grow at their own pace.

Am I Doing This By Faith?

Romans 14:22-23 The question must always be “can I do this with a clear conscience?” If we have any doubts about what thing we want to say or do then we should not do it. Peace and joy come from knowing we are right with God and having doubts about a matter does not bring peace.