

Assimilation Versus Accommodation: Romans 14:1-15:7 Feb. 23, 2012

Scriptural passages:

I John 2:15, 16	Love not the world.
Rom. 12:1, 2	Be not conformed, but be transformed.
I Cor. 10:3-5	Casting down fortresses and bringing every thought captive
Deut. 18:9-14	You shall not imitate any of the abominations of the nations.
Acts 15:28, 29	Not to impose upon you except that which is important.
Romans 14:1	Do not argue about opinions.
Romans 14:5,	Let each be fully persuaded.
Romans 14:8-12,	We shall all stand before Him for our convictions.
Romans 14:13-18,	We should not judge, nor cause to stumble, We should live for the kingdom.

(too many scruples – strong opinions are a sign of weakness, not strength)

Romans 14:19-23	Best not to offend by insisting on our freedom (or by imposing our personal scruples)
Romans 15:1-7	We need to support the weak by the power of Scriptural convictions and by developing biblical consensus (the principles of which never change, but the decisions reached by these must constantly be changing)
Col. 2:16-23	(shorter version of Romans 14:1-15:7)
I Cor. 9:19-23	Firm flexibility under the Law of Messiah.

One of the greatest challenges which faces believers today is how to be **spiritually relevant** without **assimilating into the paganism** of the secular society we are trying to reach out to and in the midst of which we live.

What are the principles we should follow from the Scriptures which would guide us in this challenge?

- (1) Avoid all forms of **overt** or **covert** paganism (idolatry and fornication).
- (2) Do not **condemn** the innocent nor **indulge** the guilty.
- (3) Be strong in Him, and know why we do what we do
(and why we do not do what we do not do).
- (4) **Secular is not always pagan and pagan is not always secular.**
- (5) Dress codes, musical expressions, artistic expressions are cultural expressions which change over time. Holiness never changes(I Peter 2:9-11).
- (6) We live in the world and are never to be of the world (John 17:15-17; Matt. 5:13-16).
- (7) We must be wise as serpents and harmless as doves, and not the other way around.