

BALANCING GRACE WITH LOVE

LIBERTY ON A TIGHTROPE

ROMANS 14:13–23



The Heart of the Matter

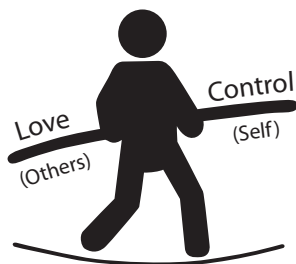
Balance. That's the ticket. While Christ is the bulwark of balance, our Adversary is the expert of extremes. He will do anything to disturb our spiritual equilibrium, move us off center, and tempt us into an out-of-balance lifestyle that is "too much." For example: Christian liberty. God's desire is that we, His people, enjoy fully our freedom in Christ. However, there must be self-imposed boundaries, or we will become self-serving, independent-minded, and careless rebels who have no regard for others. The last eleven verses of Romans 14 address this issue.



Discovering the Way

1. Correct Stance: To Get Us Started (Romans 14:13)

The secret of staying free is keeping love for others and control of self in constant balance.



2. Three Reminders: To Keep Our Balance (Romans 14:14–20)

A balanced believer realizes that nothing is unclean in and of itself (Romans 14:14–16), that the essence of Christianity is not external but eternal (14:17–19), and that when liberty hinders God's work, we must yield (14:20).



Starting Your Journey

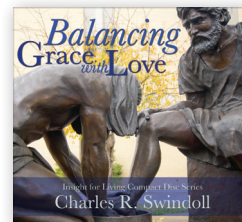
Three practical warnings will guard us from stumbling. First, be considerate (Romans 14:21). Second, be convinced (14:22). And third, be consistent (14:23).



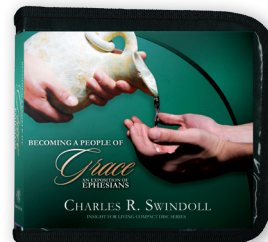
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