

DISCIPLESHIP GROUPS

Our Mission: Reaching Out to Leaders Who Can Change the World.

Romans

A New Life

Lesson #18: Christian Liberty

INTRODUCTION

In the 1924 Olympics Eric Liddell refused to run on Sunday. He believed that to run on Sunday would break one of the Ten Commandments. **Exodus 20:8** Was he right or wrong? **Rom 14:5-6** Explain.

OBSERVATION/INTERPRETATION

Read Romans 14:1 – 24

Note: "If it's doubtful- don't do it!" is a good policy, especially in regard to emails & social media posts. Christians should not carelessly do things that the world (non-Christians) would question.

1. What are some areas of dispute between the "weak" and the "strong". vv. 1-6 (morally neutral)
What do Christians disagree about today?
2. What attitudes do the weak and the strong tend to have toward each other? Why might they feel this way?
3. What types of Christians are you most likely to judge or look down on? Why? **2 Cor 5:10; Matt 16:27**
4. Why is it wrong to pass judgment on other Christians? **Matt 7:1; 16**
5. Why is Paul *not* saying that sin is a matter of personal opinion? **Col 2:18-23**
6. When we are *not* around those whose faith is weak, what principles should govern our Christian liberty?
7. Someone somewhere is bound to be offended by something we do! How can we practically apply these principles? V. 12
8. In his treatise *On the Freedom of a Christian Man*, 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 the essence of this chapter?
9. If opinions are what we hold and convictions are what hold us, how can we develop proper convictions?
10. How can we become more free in our choices or take into account our influence on others?

APPLICATION

Which of your own practices might distress or destroy another brother or sister in Christ? What practices offend you? Ask God for wisdom to know how to respond in these areas?

During the summer of 1924, the Olympics were hosted by the city of Paris. Liddell was a committed Christian and refused to run on Sunday (the Christian Sabbath), with the consequence that he was forced to withdraw from the 100 meters race, his best event. The schedule had been published several months earlier, and his decision was made well before the Games began. Liddell spent the intervening months training for the 400 meters, an event in which he had previously excelled. Even so, his success in the 400m was largely unexpected. The day of 400 meters race came, and as Liddell went to the starting blocks, an American masseur slipped a piece of paper into Liddell's hand with a quotation from 1 Samuel 2:30, "Those who honour me I will honour." Liddell ran with that piece of paper in his hand. He not only won the race, but broke the existing world record with a time of 47.6 seconds. A few days earlier Liddell had competed in the 200 meter finals, for which he received the bronze medal behind Americans Jackson Scholz and Charles Paddock, beating Harold Abrahams, who finished in sixth place. (This was the second and last race in which these two runners met.) His performance in the 400 meters in Paris remained a world record for four years, and a European record for 12 years, until it was beaten by another British athlete, Godfrey Brown, at the Berlin Olympics.

From [Wikipedia](#)