When Good Isn't Good

Ken Chapman · Romans 14:1–20

INTRODUCTION

- And maybe more importantly or more correctly than discussing what is good, is to discuss who gets to decide that it's good.
- Sometimes what is good, at least in our eyes, isn't always good. In fact, a closer examination will show us that even that which is good in God's eyes isn't always good.

1 Good Things Declared by God Aren't Always Good

Hebrews 13:4

- The Hebrew writer says in Hebrews chapter 13 and verse 4, marriage is honorable among all and the bed undefiled.
- After saying the bed, the marriage bed is undefiled, he goes on to say, but fornicators and adulterers, God will judge.
- You take that very same activity that's declared in this situation as being good and put it here outside of the marriage relationship, and it's not good.
- The word fornication is simply a broad term that means any form of sexual immorality, any type of sexual union that is outside of the God approved marriage between a man and a woman.
- Adultery is illicit sexual union that involves at least one of the parties being married to someone else.
- Let's not become so rampant in our vigilance of condemning homosexuality that we kind of gloss over these other sexual sins that are just as wrong in the eyes of God.

2 Limited by God's Judgment Rather Than Our Own

2 Kings 5; Habakkuk 2:20

- We must always be limited by God's judgment rather than our own.
- Who says what is good? It's really God. Not my emotion.
- He was going to go away in a huff and leave the same leper that he came. Because he said, I thought it was going to be this way.
- God does not require that we check our brains at the door. Christianity is a logical endeavor. But God's not paying us to think.
- But the Lord is in his holy temple. Let all the earth keep silence before him.
- Only God gets to decide what's good.

3 Truly Good Things Can Become Bad When Misused

Romans 14:1–6

- Even truly good things can become bad when they're misused.

- They made their own personal preference really God's law, God's line. They moved God's line. And they had no right to do that.
- Maybe what started out as a good thing, that extra caution became a bad thing.
- Receive one who is weak in the faith. And not to dispute over doubtful things.
- The weak one is the one who's so afraid that he's just written things off the list that God said was okay.
- Don't take that which is good and make it bad. By causing your brother to stumble.

4 How We View Our Brother

Romans 14:3–4; Romans 14:15; Romans 14:20

- The second key ... in this context of Romans chapter 14 ... is how we view our brother.
- Let not him who eats despise him who does not eat, and let not him who does not eat judge him who eats, for God has received him.
- Who are you to judge another's servant?
- Do not destroy with your food ... the one for whom Christ died.
- They're another servant. They're my brother. They're the one for whom Christ died.
- Do not destroy the work of God for the sake of food.

> THE CHALLENGE
>
> **What is good? How is good to be defined and how is good to be used? You know who gets to decide that? The one who is in his holy temple. And you and I keep silent before it.**

MY NOTES