

Liberty of Conscience under the Lordship of Christ

How the Lordship of Christ results in true liberty and unity.

Defining Conscience: Our moral awareness that acts as an internal compass, and judge (Romans 2:14-15).

Defining Matters of Conscience: Matters in which we can disagree—even behave differently—but still have unity and welcome one another in love (Romans 14:1–15:7).

STRONG CONSCIENCE	STRONG CONSCIENCE	STRONG CONSCIENCE	STRONG CONSCIENCE	WEAK CONSCIENCE	WEAK CONSCIENCE	WEAK CONSCIENCE
but carelessly crossing the line into lawlessness and immorality	but looking down on (despising) those with a weak conscience	fully persuaded, yet welcoming rather than looking down on those with a weak conscience	but free to be flexible in disputable matters to edify believers and advance the gospel	fully persuaded, yet welcoming rather than judging those with a strong conscience	but judging those with a strong conscience	but crossing the line into legalism
EATS MEAT	EATS MEAT	EATS MEAT	FLEXIBLE	NO MEAT	NO MEAT	NO MEAT
"I have freedom not only to eat meat but to go to parties at idol temples"	"I have freedom to eat meat, and those who don't are being unreasonable and are theologically in error."	"I have freedom to eat meat for the glory of God, but I still welcome Christians who disagree."	"I have become all things to all people that by all means I might save some."	"I abstain from eating meat for the glory of God, but I still welcome Christians who disagree."	"It's sinful to eat meat, and Christians who do so are being unfaithful to God."	"You must follow the Old Testament dietary restrictions if you want to be a Christian."
HERESY	ARROGANCE	LOVE	LOVE	LOVE	JUDGMENTAL-ISM	HERESY

* Chart based on *Conscience: What It Is, How to Train It, and Loving Those Who Differ* by Naselli and Crowley.

The Way Forward

1. Perform theological triage.
2. Beware the tyranny of the weaker brother and the danger of uniformity.
3. Beware the leaven of the world.
4. Pursue true unity under the lordship of Christ.