

# **The Right to Yield**

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## I. Introduction.

A. Text: Romans 14:13-23.

B. Subject: how to handle gray areas.

II. What one must not do about gray matters. One must not condemn or artificially regulate others.

III. What one can do about gray matters.

A. We are not to judge others.

B. Instead, we are to make up our mind not to put a stumbling block in the way of others. One must judge the effects on others.

C. Reasons one must judge himself.

1. If anyone regards something as wrong, for him it is wrong.

a. Jesus Himself taught that food is not a moral issue, but people's consciences develop at different rates.

b. It is wrong to force someone else to move at your pace.

c. Love will slow to another's pace.

2. Not every issue demands unyielding firmness.

a. An unyielding spirit harms the gospel.

b. Non-Christians ought to see righteousness, love, peace, and joy among Christians.

c. We should yield and not insist on our rights always.

D. Guidelines.

1. Enjoy freedom until it threatens other Christians' peace.

2. Freedom should be limited in order not to press a Christian too far too early.

a. It is good that sometimes believers indulge the liberties of others so that the church is not perceived as overly legalistic.

b. However, one must not enjoy freedom to the point that it will arrest another.

3. Let faith in God and His Word be your confidence.

a. It must not be a matter of pride.

b. If you have based your actions on this, then your conscience will be free, and you will be blessed.

c. If you act for the sake of indulgence though, your conscience will condemn you.

E. Summary.

1. Do not do something when it causes someone to stumble.

2. Give up your rights when another could be harmed.

3. Act on the basis of faith.

IV. The results of acting rightly.

**Application questions:**

1. What exceptions are there to yielding to a weaker brother?

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2. Why is faith so important in these matters of conscience?

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3. Have you ever been a “weaker brother” in hindsight? How would you have felt if someone forced his or her views on you at the time?

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