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**Message Title:** Why we do what we do

**This weeks focus scripture:** *Romans 14:13-19*

**Reading challenge:** Start with Romans 13:13, and read all the way through Romans 15:6. Read this entire passage several times.

**This weeks memory challenge:** *Romans 14:19 Let us therefore make every effort to do what leads to peace and to mutual edification.*

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† **Recap:** On disputable matters, don't JUDGE one another!  
*Romans 14:1-13a*

† Big concept: The stumbling block  
*Romans 14:13-14*

Two traditional distortions

- Response of FEAR
- Imposition of LAW

† The myth and Pete's story

† It all comes down to LOVE  
*Romans 14:15*

† Everything speaks  
*Romans 14:16*

† Why we do what we do  
*Romans 14:17-19*

**Day 1:** Read Romans 14:13-14. What does Paul mean by ‘stumbling block’ and ‘obstacle?’

What does he *not* mean, and how does can this Biblical call to ‘not be a stumbling block to our brother be misinterpreted or distorted?

**Day 2:** In today’s message, Pastor Ethan talked about the pitfalls of fear and law as motivators in life. Do you agree with his point? Are there ways you see these at work in your own life, and if so, what is the result?

**Day 3:** Also in today’s message, Pastor Ethan described a ‘myth’ that is at times prevalent in Christian culture, this being that we can *minimize or remove sin by minimizing or removing temptation*. Do you agree? Why might this be a failed strategy for how we live?

Read romans 13:13-14 and Galatians 5:16. What is God’s plan for us experiencing freedom from temptation and sin?

**Day 4:** Read Romans 14:15. Here Paul makes his point that this entire chapter comes down to love. In your own words, write the essential point Paul makes to us. What are examples in your own life of how this *call to love* will lead you to modify your behavior or lay down some of your own rights?

**Day 5:** Read Romans 14:16-19. Here Paul says that the ‘Kingdom of God is not about eating and drinking.’ In his context, these were legitimate activities that were causing the ‘weak in faith’ to violate their own conscience before God. Paul essentially tells us that His Kingdom is not about claiming our rights, when the exercise of these rights might harm others. Are there any ‘rights’ in your life that you are holding onto, even though the Holy Spirit is leading you to lay them down out of love for another person?

Read verse 19. What would such ‘efforts’ look like in your life?