

## **A SERIES OF DEVOTIONS BASED ON PAUL'S LETTER TO THE CHURCH IN ROME**

### **STRIVE FOR PEACE AND MUTUAL EDIFICATION**

Romans 14:19-21 "Let us therefore make every effort to do what leads to peace and to mutual edification. Do not destroy the work of God for the sake of food. All food is clean, but it is wrong for a person to eat anything that causes someone else to stumble. It is better not to eat meat or drink wine or to do anything else that will cause your brother or sister to fall."

There are many things you have the right to do something but it may not be right to do them. This sounds contradictory, doesn't it? If you have the right to do something then no one has the right to keep you from doing it. This is logical, but it may not be what God wants.

In a culture where personal rights are a "big deal," reading today's devotional verse does not resonate well with how people think today. You may not like what it says either. Why would the Holy Spirit inspire St. Paul to have written these three verses? Why would he write, "Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit. Rather, in humility value others above yourselves, not looking to your own interests but each of you to the interests of the others." (Philippians 2:3-4)

As a Christian, a believer in Jesus Christ, where it is no longer you who live but Christ who lives in you (Galatians 2:20), contrary to what the world of today tells you, you are not number one. St. Paul said of himself, "I eagerly expect and hope that I will in no way be ashamed, but will have sufficient courage so that now as always Christ will be exalted in my body, whether by life or by death. 'For me to live is Christ . . .'" (Philippians 1:20-21.)

To live for Christ means trusting in Him for forgiveness, life, and salvation, and emulating how He lived. He lived to wash His disciples' feet, feed the people who were hungry, forgive those who repented, love the unlovable, etc. He has called you to love your neighbor as you love yourself. (Luke 10:27) St Paul writes in Colossians 3:13-14 "Bear with each other and forgive one another if any of you has a grievance against someone. Forgive as the Lord forgave you. And over all these virtues put on love, which binds them all together in perfect unity." "Let us therefore make every effort to do what leads to peace and to mutual edification."

Prayer: Bless me Jesus that I live my life to Your glory and honor and for the good of my neighbor. In Your holy name. Amen.

Love in Christ is strong and living, Binding faithful hearts in one;  
Love in Christ is true and giving, May His will in us be done.

Love is patient and forbearing, Clothed in Christ's humility,  
Gentle, selfless, kind, and caring, Reaching out in charity.

Love in Christ abides forever, Fainting not when ills attend;  
Love, forgiving and forgiven, Shall endure until life's end.  
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