

# Living Connections Bible Study



## Stumbling Blocks or Stepping Stones

**Text**                   Romans 14:13-23

**Prayer**

**Icebreaker**           What are some things Christians need to be careful about lest they become a stumbling block to others?

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1. Does the Bible forbid us from judging in the sense of having a discerning, discriminating spirit about the character and actions of others? What did Paul and Jesus mean then when they instructed us not to judge one another? Verse 13; Matthew 7:1-6, 15-20; John 7:24

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2. Rather than judging our brother's scruples, what should be our goal toward him? Verse 1

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3. Does Paul teach that there is nothing sinful or spiritually unclean except those things each person perceives to be so? Is right and wrong relative to each person's perception of truth, righteousness and sin? Verse 14; Read the context (2, 6b, 15, 17, 21, 23)  
Ephesians 5:3-6; Galatians 5:19-21; Acts 10:9-16; Mark 7:18-23; 1 Timothy 4:4-5

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4. Why is it wrong to go against our conscience by breaking and violating scruples we were raised with until the Holy Spirit gives us this freedom by reprogramming our consciences with the Word of God? Verses 14b, 23

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5. What should motivate us not to flaunt our freedom in Christ in front of a brother who might be stumbled by what we perceive as a personal right? Verse 15, 1 Corinthians 8:1, 8-13

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6. How can we avoid bringing criticism against our personal liberties, scruples and reputation? Verses 16-18

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7. What two goals are we to pursue in the family of God according to verse 19? Ephesians 4:1-3; Romans 12:17-18

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8. What command do we find in verse 20a?

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9. What does it mean to eat with offence? Verse 20b-21

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10. What role should faith play in participating or partaking in things which to some might violate their sense (conscience) of right and wrong? Verses 22-23

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**Think about it this week:**

*Therefore, whether you eat or drink, or whatever you do, do all for the glory of God.*