

Pastor David Higa

**God's Righteousness Revealed in Transformed Living
Romans 14:1-23 – Liberty and Love**

...for the kingdom of God is not eating and drinking, but righteousness and peace and joy in the Holy Spirit. [Romans 14:17]

Liberty and love are two faces of the Christian life that are interesting to evaluate side by side. For the Christian there is much liberty. He is free to eat all things or to not eat all things. He is free to "esteem one day above another," or to "esteem every day alike." As you look at the doctrines of the Christian faith there are no hard and fast rules on what to eat and what not to eat, or what day to esteem above another. "Let each be fully convinced in his own mind." [Rom 14:5] There is individual liberty in Christ.

However, love should be at the core. Love is the overarching theme of Christian behavior, even as we've seen over the past few weeks. The greatest gift is love [ref. 1 Cor 13]; and the spiritual fruit is love [ref Gal 5:22-23]. Therefore, just because we have freedom in Christ doesn't mean that we should always exercise it.

Paul uses the example of food, but the principle extends beyond. While we are free in Christ to eat all foods [ref. Mark 7:19], out of love we should be willing to abstain from certain foods that offend. But we can offend in other ways as well; by what we say and do. As mature Christians, we ought to be willing to forfeit our freedoms for the sake of another.

The key virtue is recognizing that it's ok to not have our way. This doesn't come naturally, but a supernatural work of the Spirit will put our way on the side for the sake of another. There's a scripture; "Knowledge puffs up, but love builds up." Even if we know our way might be better, at times a person needs to be built up in love, so we do it their way.

So the next time you see a brother or sister downcast because you're not following something they feel convicted on; consider yielding. Because in the end it is not worth severing the relationship for whom Christ died.

"Yet if your brother is grieved because of your food, you are no longer walking in love. Do not destroy with your food the one for whom Christ died." [Rom 14:15]

Yet again, *love is the key*. Love is the glue that holds the body of Christ together. "Love is the circulatory system of the spiritual body, **which enables all members** to function in a healthy harmonious way." [Wiersbe]

Weekly Ministries:

Sun Morning Services – at Rosemont ES w/ Spanish translation.
7:30 am
9:30 am with Children's ministry.
11:30 am with Children's ministry & Teens ministry [6th-9th grades].

Sun Evening Service – HT Office. *Paul's Epistles*.
6:30 pm with Children's ministry.

Mon Evening Men's Fellowship – at HT Church Office.
6:30 pm Studying Revelation.

Tue Evening Ladies Fellowship – at HT Church Office.
7:00 pm Bible study discussing Sun sermons in Romans.

Wed Afternoon Elderly Ministry – at Hollywood Royale.
3:30 pm See Carl for details.

Wed Evening Service – at Rosemont ES with Children's ministry.
7:30 pm Old Testament Bible Study – **New study - 1 Kings**.

Thu Evening HT Bible School – On break until January 2018.

Sat Afternoon Elderly Ministry – at City View Villas.
2:00 pm See Carl for details.



Special Holiday Season Schedule

Since Christmas Eve and New Year's Eve fall on Sundays this year we are combining our three regular Sun morning services into one service at 10:30 am. We will resume our regular schedule the following Sun, Jan 7, 2018.

- **Sun Christmas Eve Day** – 10:30 am, Dec 24, at Rosemont ES
 - **Sun Christmas Eve** – 6 pm, Dec 24, at Rosemont ES
 - **No Wed midweek service on Dec 27**
 - **Sun New Year's Eve Day** – 10:30 am, Dec 31 at Rosemont ES
- *No Sun evening service*

VA Hospital Christmas Outreach

On December 16, we will be having a special Christmas outreach at the VA Hospital and bringing our Veterans Christmas gifts and the love of Jesus. If you would like to be involved in this outreach please see Mike Abad or Sal Ela. This will be a wonderful way to serve our Veterans!



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Audio messages at: www.ccEchoPark.com. CDs for \$1.

Daily Bible Reading 12/04 – 12/10: 2 Corinthians 1 – Ephesians 6. Reading plan at Info Table.

Spanish Translation is available during our services using small remote earpiece units. Please come to the Information Table.

Prayer Requests: We are available for prayer right after the service or you can fill out a **PrayerCard** and drop it in the offering box.

As a courtesy, please turn off cell phones and pagers during service.

Worship Services:

Sundays at 7:30, 9:30, 11:30 a.m.

Wednesdays at 7:30 p.m.

Rosemont Avenue Elementary School
421 N. Rosemont Ave., Los Angeles, 90026

Sunday Evening at 6:30 p.m.

Church Office - The Hidden Treasure Bookshop
1822 W. Temple Street, Los Angeles, 90026