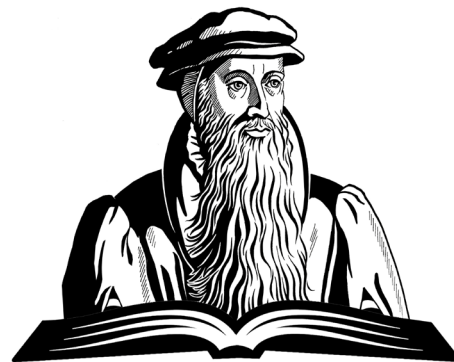


Lecture 5

**The King's Instructions
for the Weak**



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Entrusting our Reformed Inheritance to the Church Worldwide

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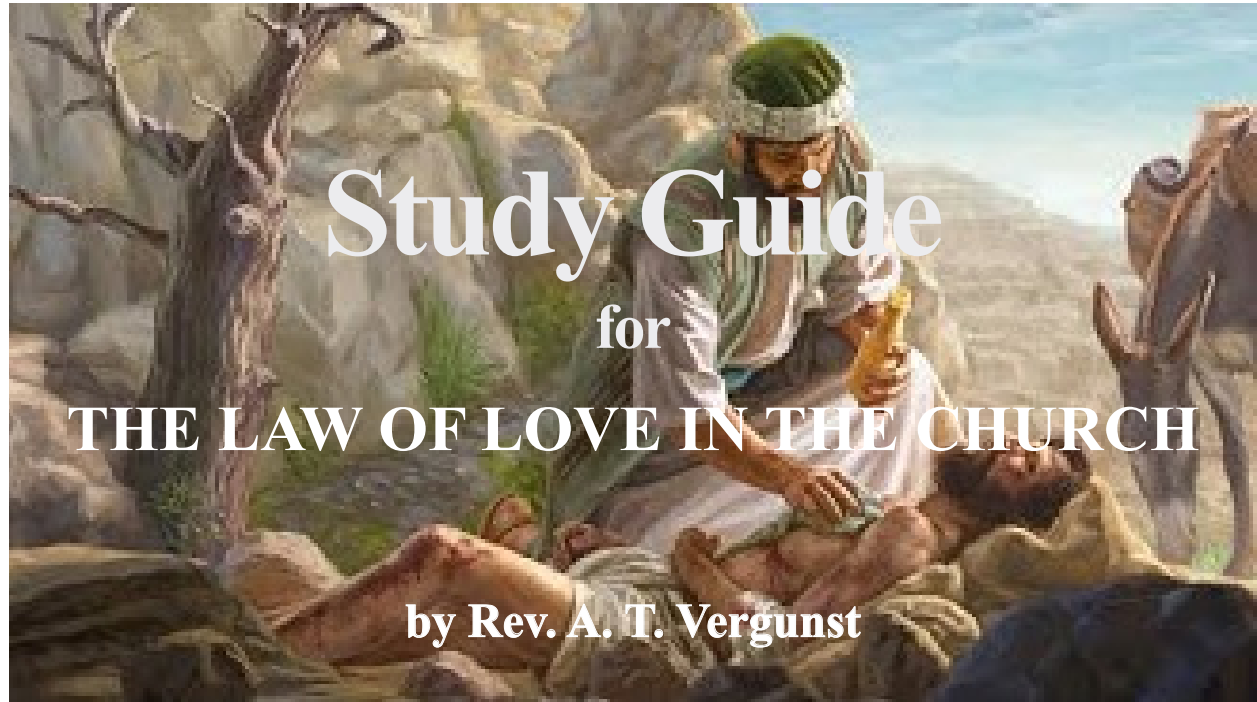
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Unless otherwise indicated, all Scripture quotations are from the Authorized King James Version.

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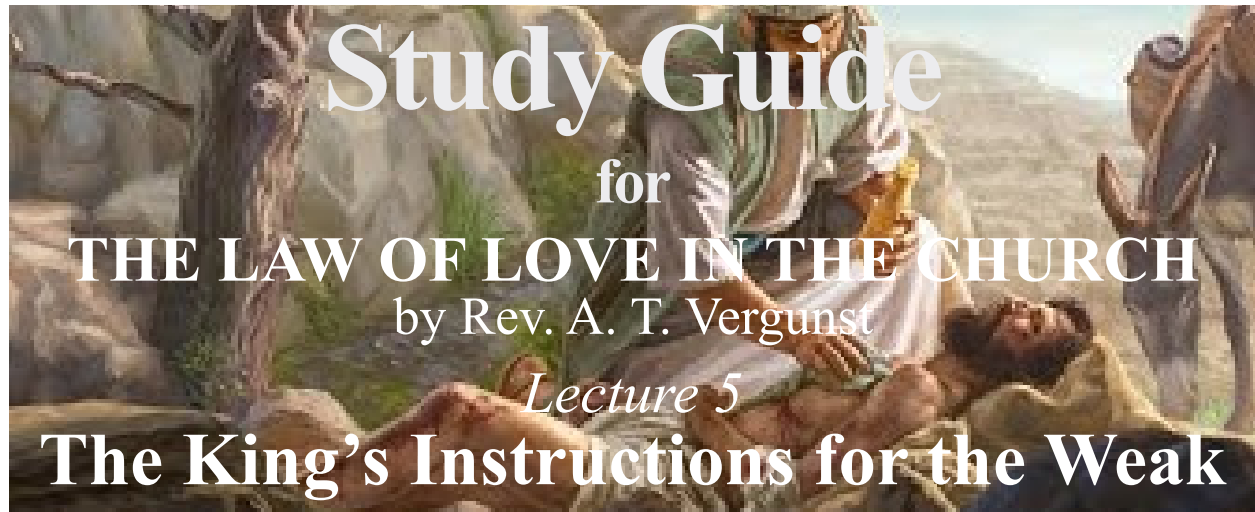
Study Guide

for

THE LAW OF LOVE IN THE CHURCH

by Rev. A. T. Vergunst

1. Introduction
2. Three Principles for Harmony
3. The Strong and the Weak in the Faith
4. The King's Instructions for the Strong
5. The King's Instructions for the Weak
6. Conclusion and Exhortation



Scripture Text

“For one believeth that he may eat all things: another, who is weak, eateth herbs. Let not him that eateth despise him that eateth not; and let not him which eateth not judge him that eateth: for God hath received him.” —Romans 14:2–3

“Who art thou that judgest another man’s servant? to his own master he standeth or falleth. Yea, he shall be holden up: for God is able to make him stand.”—Romans 14:4

Key Points

1. Review of the first five principles.
2. The sixth principle: The weak in faith are not to judge the strong in faith for their use of Christian liberty.
 - a. The Apostle Paul counseled the weak in faith never to violate their conscience.
 - 1) What is not of faith is sin.
3. God gives three reasons why Christians should not judge fellow Christians for their use of Christian liberty.
 - a. God has received them; Jesus Christ calls them brethren.
 - b. God is the judge; it is not our office to judge.
 - c. Sanctification is in God’s hands, not ours.
4. Paul brings both the weak and the strong together in Romans 14, verses 5 though 8.
 - a. Both should keep their eyes on Christ, so they are united.
 - b. Both should allow each other liberty to be fully persuaded in their own mind.
 - 1) Defining “fully persuaded.” Based on deep conviction from the Word of God.

2) Don't push your convictions on others.

c. Both are bound to the will of God. On both sides, what is not of faith is sin.

5. One day we all will stand before the same tribunal and give account to the Lord Jesus Christ. Therefore, sit not in judgment on matters our Lord has not specified in his holy book—Romans 14:11. “In all things essential, unity; in all things nonessential, liberty; in all things, charity”—Augustine.

Review Questions

1. What was the historical background behind Paul's instructions to the church in Rome in Romans 14:2? How did Paul teach the same thing in 1 Corinthians 10:22–23?

2. What does Paul mean by, “asking no questions for conscience sake?” Why is this important for the building up of the weaker brethren in the church?

3. In Romans 14:23, Paul says “And he that doubteth is damned if he eat, because he eateth not of faith.” What should we understand from this?

4. In Romans chapter 14, Paul warns the weak in faith not to judge the strong in faith for making use of their Christian liberty. How were the weak judging the strong in the Roman church? Do Christians do this today?

5. Romans 14:3 says, “For God hath received him.” What does this mean? What evidence can we see in their lives that God has received them?

6. Do we have the right and privilege to judge another Christian in their faith? Who is the only one who is able and has the authority to do that?

7. Sometimes the weak in faith worry about the faith of the strong who are making use of Christian liberty. Is this really in necessary? Who alone can save sinners from their sin?

8. The weak and the strong in faith differ in the nonessentials of the Christian faith, but the same inner motive should unite them. What is the motivation they both have?

9. Rev. Vergunst asks, “Are we giving each other liberty to be fully persuaded in our minds?” What does he mean by this, in a practical sense?

10. What is the significance of Romans 14:11: “As I live, saith the Lord, every knee shall bow to me, and every tongue shall confess to God”? What day is this referring to?

Personal Applications

1. Do you know of any real situations in your church or family where the weak in faith judge those who use their Christian liberty? What did you learn from this? Do you have a judging heart? What does this lecture instruct about judging one another?

2. Romans 14:5 says, “Let every man be fully persuaded in his own mind.” Is this just a feeling, or is it a tradition? Or are there Scriptural reasons for what you believe? How can you practically exercise your beliefs with charity in your local church family? How could you share this teaching with others?
