

Walking On The Guardrail

I. Introduction: Seeking the wisdom to stay on the right path in a conscientious manner (Proverbs 9:9; 23:19).

- A. As Christians we realize that there are two paths (**Matthew 7:13-14**).
1. Christians are supposed to be on the path of the righteous (**Proverbs 2:20**).
 2. By being on the right path, we depart from evil and we guard our way (**Proverbs 16:17**).
- B. Some want to be on the right path, but they want to walk that path by being on the guardrail [a.k.a. playing with fire, playing “chicken”, Russian roulette, walking on the edge, etc.] (**Ecclesiastes 8:11, Matthew 24:45-51, and II Peter 3:3-10**).
1. Should we be trying to come as close as possible to the wrong side of the way (**Deuteronomy 5:32-33, Proverbs 4:26-27, and Hebrews 10:23**)?
 - a. We know we need authority for all we say and do (**Colossians 3:17**).
 - b. That authority comes from a “thus saith the Lord” (**Matthew 4:4, Matthew 28:18-20, Ephesians 5:10, and I Thessalonians 5:21**), not a “where did God say I can’t” (**II Samuel 7:1-7 and Proverbs 30:5-6**).
 2. Do we take our soul’s eternal destination so lightly that we will play the odds [gamble] with what’s right and wrong (**Proverbs 4:14-15**)?
- C. Christians ought to be very conscientious (**Romans 14:19-23**).
1. We always have to be mindful of others and the consequences of our actions upon them (**Romans 12:10; 15:1-3, I Corinthians 8:8-13 and I Corinthians 9:19-23**).
 2. Understanding that while being considerate of others, we cannot compromise the truth [**as some who try to shove things into Romans 14 that are not AUTHORIZED LIBERTIES**] (**Proverbs 23:23**).
 3. On the other hand, we have to make sure we are not overreacting (**Mark 7:1-9**) or attempting to become the conscience of others (**Romans 14:1-3; 10-13 and Galatians 2:1-5**).
 4. Finally, we better be sure we are not acting in doubt (**Luke 12:29, I Timothy 2:8, James 1:8, and James 4:8**).
 - a. Katrina made unleavened bread, was pretty sure no leaven was around, but she had other baking supplies out. She threw away the “unleavened bread” to be SURE there was nothing wrong (cf. **Romans 14:5**).
 - b. A woman read **I Timothy 2:9-10** and began doubting whether she should wear make-up. She should stop until she’s convinced, through the Scriptures (**Luke 4:4**), that it is right (again; **Romans 14:23**).

II. Body: *Discussing and applying the truths listed above (Luke 11:28)...*

A. Text: I Corinthians 11:3-15

B. Text: Ephesians 4:15-17

C. Text: Acts 2:46 and I Peter 4:9

D. Some other points of consideration...

III. Conclusion: *“For if our heart condemn us, God is greater than our heart, and knoweth all things. Beloved, if our heart condemn us not, then have we confidence toward God” (I John 3:20-21).*