Pastor Demetric Felton Sr. March 10, 2019

 **Drop That Rock!**

Romans 14:1-12

**Key Truth**: Freedom in Christ grants us the ability to make our own decisions and the freedom to not judge others for theirs.

**The Blessings And Challenges Of Diversity:**

1. Diversity in the body of Christ is not something to be feared

 but rather something to be sought after and applauded.

2. Diversity will challenge you to get rid of your prejudices,

 biases, and preconceived ideas.

3. Diversity will stretch you to grow spiritually.

**How We Deal With Christian Liberties And Diversity?**

1. Understand that we are all at different spiritual maturity

 levels.

2. Understand it is not our job to be the Holy Spirit in someone

 else’s life.

3. Understand the difference between acceptance and approval.

4. Understand the difference between biblical principles and

 biblical commands.

5. Understand that there are times when the decisions of

 others aren’t wrong, even though they aren’t choices we

 would make.

6. Our responsibility is to love people and not be gatekeepers of

 salvation.

**Taking It Beyond The Walls:** Pray that the Holy Spirit will convict us of our own sin so that we might be humble towards others because we are aware of our own faults. Ask the Lord to bless our churches with the fellowship of unity as we treat others with a welcoming and inclusive love that only comes from Christ.

**Connection Group Homework**

Looking back at your notes from this week’s teaching was there anything you heard for the first time or that caught your attention, challenged or confused you?

What does it mean to have freedom? What are some of the freedoms that we enjoy?

What are some of the challenges that come with living with others in a free society?

Read Luke 9:49-50: Why were the Apostles upset with the person who was casting out demons in Jesus name? Why did Jesus tell them no to stop him?

Read Philippians 3:12-15: In verse 15, whom did Paul say it was the responsibility of to help someone understand things more maturely? Why do we spend so much time trying to convince others to see things our way vice just loving others where they are?

Read Galatians 5:1-6: What did Paul say was the most important thing that counted in Christ?

In affirming others we must be careful in the area of sin. We must lovingly confront our brothers/sisters when they violate the commands of God. What are some modern-day choices that divide fellowships?

How can we be affirming of others in our fellowship who may not make the same life decisions as we do?

Read Psalm 133:1-3: How can we maintain our unity in Christ and still maintain our standard of holiness?