

## **Lent Day 33**

Friday April 7, 2017

### **Reading:** Romans 14:1-12

*8 If we live, we live for the Lord; and if we die, we die for the Lord. So, whether we live or die, we belong to the Lord. 9 For this very reason, Christ died and returned to life so that he might be the Lord of both the dead and the living.*

### **Reflection**

My wife Sarah and I are very different people and that became apparent to us very early on in our relationship. For her, it was important that we went out and do something; go for a walk, have a picnic, or check out the sites. My ideal was chill out, watch tv or grab a movie; I could do nothing but that for days on end. As you can imagine this led to some interesting conversations over the years. In fact, there were times when it became a downright problem.

The problem was rooted, largely, in my attitude. All I was interested in was myself. I didn't feel like going out, I wanted to watch tv, simply I didn't want the hassle. Sarah though, wanted to engage in activities that would bring us closer, contribute to our health and development, as we had kids she wanted to do things which would form memories. I didn't want to hear that I just wanted to do what I wanted.

Again, there isn't anything really new under the sun. Paul and his churches struggled with the same kind of self-centredness we do. The human condition can be summarized as trying to please ones own self. So Paul reminds his churches, and us that this is no longer appropriate for Christians — just like Sarah reminded me my attitude was not appropriate either.

We don't like to please ourselves, but we also don't like to please others. Now, we live to please Jesus. It's a new question we wrestle with, "What will make Jesus happy in the situation?" This question will keep us from much sin! It will keep us from sins of self-centredness and from sins that harm others.

### **Prayer**

Lord, help our lives to glorify you. Shift us from ruling ourselves to being ruled by you, so that you are honoured above all else. Amen.