

## KEEPING WHAT'S FIRST, FIRST

Romans 14:16-19

*“But seek first the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things will be added to you”* (Matthew 6:33). The kingdom of God is the sphere where God is acknowledged as Supreme Ruler. To seek His kingdom is to submit ourselves to the King, and to do our part in expanding His kingdom. This is no secondary issue. *“Seek first”* indicates that God’s kingdom should be the prime area of concern at every level—in our work, in our family, in our walk with God, in our involvement in the church, etc.

Three questions that can help motivate us to keep what’s first, first: \_

1. What happens when we *don’t* keep what’s first, first? 14:16-17a

- In the context, what do the words “what you regard as good” refer to?
- In what way were the readers in danger of allowing what they regarded as good to be “spoken of as evil”?
- What does this teach us about keeping what’s first, first?

2. What happens when we *do* keep what’s first, first? 14:17b-18

- Explain each of the characteristics (virtues) of the kingdom (v. 17).
- How does your own life stack against to these characteristics?
- In what way does manifesting the characteristics of the kingdom make one acceptable to God and approved by men (v. 18)?
- How does this (being acceptable vertically and horizontally) motivate you to keep what’s first, first?

3. What must happen to keep what’s first, first? 14:19

- Explain the significance of the verb “pursue” for keeping what’s first, first.
- Explain how each of the following points enable us to pursue the priority of the kingdom—to keep what’s first, first:
  - Pursue the King. Romans 14:7-8
  - Pursue others (sons and daughters of the kingdom)
  - Pursue your church (the kingdom’s local battle station).