29 July 2012: Preached by Preacher Joseph Poon
Message Topic: **Stumbling Blocks and the Principles of Love**
Scripture Text: Romans 14: 13-23

1. The nature of stumbling blocks
A stumbling block is an obstacle put ahead of someone, causing them to trip over and fall. It causes terrible hurt to the other party. It tempts someone, causing them to sin. Thus, from 1 Cor 8:9, we need to note that our liberty doesn't become a stumbling block to them that are weaker. Although we have the freedom to do what we want, we need to be reminded of the younger Christians in our midst who are weaker in the faith. They will watch our action and behaviour.

2. The effects of a stumbling block
A stumbling block destroys and will cause one to become weak. It is not true that the Bible does not set any law for us. Although there are no longer ceremonial laws, moral law still stands. We need to be careful that not everything we do can be an excuse of being a personal preference. Example in 1 Cor 4:8 concerning eating of the food offered to idols, although we know that idols are just a piece of wood, we still should not eat of the food as a weaker brother who sees it may fall into sin as their faith is shaken and they compromise. Good actions, without proper principles, is not correct. The medium (object) is not the problem, but it is how it's used and executed. Thus, we have to be watchful of our lives that it does not stumble the younger ones.

3. Response against stumbling blocks
Be charitable and willing to give up personal preferences to accommodate. When we have the proper mindset that we don't want to stumble others, our action will follow suit. Choose to build up those around you by your actions and words. Never fall into the sin of teaching a younger Christian to love the world just because we are not careful with our words. Decide today that we will be willing to give up anything for a younger Christian. For the weaker Christian, it's time to grow in your faith. If not, you'll be always doing things that will lead to sin.