

Romans Series

Lesson #150

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Dean Bible Ministries

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Weaker Brother, Stronger Brother
Romans 14:1–5

OUR WORKS
FILTHY RAGS



CHRIST'S
PERFECT
RIGHTEOUSNESS
& THE CROSS



ROMANS

GOD'S RIGHTEOUSNESS & GRACE

Rom. 14:1, “Receive one who is weak in the faith, but not to disputes over doubtful things.”

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προσλαμβάνω
proslambanō

pres mid impera 2 plur
“to receive, accept
into one’s company or
fellowship” [same
word used in 14:3]

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ἀσθενέω *astheneō*

pres act part masc sing
acc

“to be weak: physically in the sense of illness or spiritually in the sense of weary of obedience as in James 5:14; or weak in terms of the understanding or application of doctrine, i.e., immature, as in Romans 14:2–3; 1 Cor. 8:11–12”

Rom. 14:1, “Receive one who is weak in the faith, but not to disputes over doubtful things.”

**διάκρισις *diakrasis*
acc fem plur
dispute, dissolution**

Rom. 14:1, “Receive one who is weak in the faith, but not to disputes over doubtful things.”

διάκρισις *diakrasis*
acc fem plur
quarrel, dispute,
dissolution

διαλογισμός *dialogismos*
gen masc plur
opinion, ideas,
discussion

Rom. 1:5, “Through Him we have received grace and apostleship for obedience to the faith among all nations for His name,”

Some Wrong Ideas About the Weaker Christian

- 1. The “weak” were mainly Gentile Christians who abstained from meat (and perhaps wine), particularly on certain “fast” days, under the influence of certain pagan religions.**
- 2. The “weak” were Christians, perhaps both Jewish and Gentile, who practiced an ascetic lifestyle for reasons that we cannot determine.**
- 3. The “weak” were mainly Jewish Christians who observed certain practices derived from the Mosaic Law out of a concern to establish righteousness before God.**

Rom. 10:3, “For they being ignorant of God’s righteousness, and seeking to establish their own righteousness, have not submitted to the righteousness of God.

Rom. 10:4, “For Christ is the end of the law for righteousness to everyone who believes.”

Some Wrong Ideas About the Weaker Christian

- 4. The “weak” were mainly Jewish Christians who had ascetic trends which they were blending with some Mosaic traditions plus pagan traditions.**
- 5. The “weak” were mainly Jewish Christians who, like some of the Corinthians, believed that it was wrong to eat meat that was sold in marketplace and was probably tainted by idolatry.**
- 6. The “weak” were mainly Jewish Christians who refrained from certain kinds of food and observed certain days out of continuing loyalty to the Mosaic Law.**

The problem is defined as “unclean” food which suggests something related to the Mosaic dietary laws.

Rom. 14:14, “I know and am convinced by the Lord Jesus that there is nothing unclean of itself; but to him who considers anything to be unclean, to him it is unclean.”

Weaker

Humility

Uncertain

Uninformed

Grace-oriented

Easily influenced

Mature

Humility

**Thoughtful
conviction**

**DVP, open to
correction**

Grace-oriented

**Not easily
influenced**

Legalist/Pharisee

Arrogant

**Thoughtful
conviction**

**Not open to
correction**

Works-oriented

**Not easily
influenced**

Rom. 14:2, “For one believes he may eat all things, but he who is weak eats only vegetables.”

Rom. 14:3, “Let not him who eats despise him who does not eat, and let not him who does not eat judge him who eats; for God has received him.”

**ἐξουθενέω *exoutheneō*
pres act impera 3 sing
to despise, to reject
with contempt**

**κρίνω *krinō*
pres act
impera 3 sing
to judge**

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προσλαμβάνω *proslambanō*

pres mid impera 2 plur

**to receive, accept into one's company or
fellowship [same word used in 14:3]**

Rom. 14:4, “Who are you to judge another’s servant? To his own master he stands or falls. Indeed, he will be made to stand, for God is able to make him stand.”

**κρίνω *krinō*
pres act ptcp
“to judge”**

Law of Love

The ultimate rule for the believer's life (John 13:34, 35). A spiritual law based on consideration for others, including immature, untaught, or ignorant believers (1 Cor. 8:13). This rule places love for the weaker Christian ahead of the law of liberty.

Law of Liberty

A spiritual ordinance directed toward one's self that expresses the believer's freedom to glorify the Lord. The rule confers on every believer the right to enter into any activity that is not sinful and will not cause personal failure in the Christian life (1 Cor. 8:4, 8–9).

Law of Expediency

A spiritual ordinance based on consideration for the unbeliever. A believer refrains from doubtful activities not because they are sinful, but because they may mislead or offend an unbeliever and prevent him from recognizing the true issue of the Gospel, that Christ died for his sins.

Law of Personal Sacrifice

A spiritual principle directed toward God that involves the abandonment of a completely legitimate function in life, in order to more intensely serve the Lord in a specialized capacity (1 Cor. 9:4–6). The motive underlying this sacrifice is always evangelism and spiritual growth of the individual believer.

**1 Cor. 12:27, “Now you are Christ’s body,
and individually members of it.”**

Rom. 12:10, “Be devoted to one another in brotherly love; give preference to one another in honor;”

Rom. 12:16, “Be of the same mind toward one another;”

Rom. 13:8, “Owe nothing to anyone except to love one another;”

Rom. 14:13, “Therefore let us not judge one another anymore, but rather determine this — not to put an obstacle or a stumbling block in a brother’s way.”

Rom. 15:14, “And concerning you, my brethren, I myself also am convinced that you yourselves are full of goodness, filled with all knowledge, and able also to admonish one another.”

Gal. 5:13, “. . .through love serve one another.”

Eph. 4:25, “Therefore, laying aside falsehood, speak truth, each one of you, with his neighbor, for we are members of one another.”

Eph. 4:32, “And be kind to one another, tender-hearted, forgiving each other, just as God in Christ also has forgiven you.”

Col. 3:16, “Let the word of Christ richly dwell within you, with all wisdom teaching and admonishing one another with psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with thankfulness in your hearts to God.”

1 Thess. 4:18, “Therefore comfort one another with these words.”

1 Thess. 5:11, “Therefore encourage one another, and build up one another, just as you also are doing.”

John 15:13, “Greater love has no one than this, that one lay down his life for his friends.”