

# THE EPISTLE OF PAUL TO THE ROMANS

CLASS 24 – ROMANS 14:1F



**WEAK** = one who believes he cannot do something

THE QUESTION OF THE RIGHT OR THE WRONG OF THE ACTIVITY IS NOT GIVEN SIGNIFICANT CONSIDERATION IN THIS TEXT. OF COURSE THERE IS A RIGHT AND A WRONG, BUT EACH BELIEVES HE IS RIGHT AND THE OTHER IS WRONG. THE INSTRUCTIONS GIVEN ARE HOW TO DEAL WITH ONE ANOTHER IN LIGHT OF THIS DISAGREEMENT.

Harry Wuest, p. 182

IF **“THE STRONG”** REFERS TO THOSE WHO ARE DOCTRINALLY CORRECT, THEN NOBODY WOULD REFER TO THEMSELVES AS **“THE WEAK.”**

This is similar to the language found in 1 Pet 3:7 referring to women as **“weaker”** vessels, but also equal heirs.

If anything, the **weaker** brethren in this chapter **were the Jews** with a robust Bible knowledge and lots of piety and commitment.

**STRONG** = one who believes he can do something

THERE IS ALWAYS A RIGHT ANSWER. The Bible contains “everything pertaining unto life and godliness” (2 Pet 1:3)

BUT WE ARE ALL STRUGGLING TO LEARN AND APPLY THOSE ANSWERS. That is why we are all told to “work out our own salvation with fear and trembling” (Php 2:12)

THERE ARE 2 WAYS TO HAVE UNITY

**TRUTH** or **TOLERANCE**

If we have **TOTAL TRUTH** than we don't need any **TOLERANCE**.

If we have **TOTAL TOLERANCE** than we don't need any **TRUTH**.

**THIS IS WHY ROMANS 14 is SO IMPORTANT**

Until we all come to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to a perfect man, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ (Eph 4:13)

**Until = not there yet**

**A perfect man = means my faith has not attained to match the faith (i.e. the Bible)**

**“Receive one who is weak in the faith, but not to disputes over **doubtful** things.”**

**“Receive one who is weak in the faith, but not to disputes over doubtful things.”**

**1 Cor. 10 shows just how doubtful this issue was:**

- “flee from idolatry, I speak as to wise men”
- “All things are lawful for me... but not all things are helpful”
- “Eat whatever is sold in the meat market”
- “But if anyone says to you, ‘This was offered to idols,’ do not eat it”
- “Give no offense, either to the Jews or to the Greeks or to the church of God.”

# THE EARLY CHURCH DISAGREED OVER

- SABBATH & FESTIVAL KEEPING (14:6)
- EATING MEATS & VEGETABLES (14:2)
- WINE CONSUMPTION (14:21)

**AND YET, STILL  
HAD UNITY**

**CIRCUMCISION** used to  
be the same way!

“for neither is circumcision anything, nor uncircumcision” (Gal 6:15)

Paul even had Timothy circumcised in Acts 16:3!

**CIRCUMCISION** only divided  
the church when it was taught  
as a **REQUIREMENT**

But some men came down from Judea and were teaching the brothers, “Unless you are circumcised according to the custom of Moses, you cannot be saved.” (Acts 15:1)

The stronger brother must not **despise** the weaker brother and force him into a circumstance that will offend his conscience. The stronger brother is the ONLY one that can reach out by sacrificing his liberty because the weaker brother can't compromise what is an issue of conscience for him.

**“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.”**

The weaker brother must not **judge** the stronger brother for making a choice he himself would not make. Condescension is destructive and many churches are destroyed because people were so convinced they were right that they forget to give room for another perspective.

# THE EPISTLE OF PAUL TO THE ROMANS

CLASS 24 – ROMANS 14:1F

