

# "Weak and Strong"

Romans 14-15:13

December 11, 2011

**The Point:** God-Honoring, Gospel-Glorifying **Christian Unity**

**The Problem:** Disunity developing over diets, days, & drinks...

**1** Accept him whose faith is weak, without passing judgment on disputable matters. **2** One man's faith allows him to eat everything, but another man, whose faith is weak, eats only vegetables. **3** The man who eats everything must not look down on him who does not, and the man who does not eat everything must not condemn the man who does, **for God has accepted him.** **4** Who are you to judge someone else's servant? To his own master he stands or falls. And **he will stand, for the Lord is able to make him stand.** **5** One man considers one day more sacred than another; another man considers every day alike. Each one should be fully convinced in his own mind. **6** He who regards one day as special, does so to the Lord. He who eats meat, eats to the Lord, for he gives thanks to God; and he who abstains, does so to the Lord and gives thanks to God. **7** For none of us lives to himself alone and none of us dies to himself alone. **8** If we live, we live to the Lord; and if we die, we die to 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.** **10** You, then, why do you judge your brother? Or why do you look down on your brother? For we will all stand before God's judgment seat. **11** It is written: "'As surely as I live,' says the Lord, 'every knee will bow before me; every tongue will confess to God.'" **12** So then, **each of us will give an account of himself to God.**

## **The Remedy:**

- 1. God accepts ALL TRUE Christians... so should we... (v.1-3)**
- 2. The Lord validates ALL TRUE Christians by sustaining them... (v.4)**
- 3. The Lord's blessing & grace is active in ALL TRUE Christians... (v.5-9)**
- 4. The Lord alone will judge His children... (v.10-12)**

**The Principle:** Disciple-defining truth in deep deliberate love

**13** Therefore let us stop passing judgment on one another. Instead, **make up your mind not to put any stumbling block or obstacle in your brother's way.** **14** As one who is in the Lord Jesus, I am fully convinced that no food is unclean in itself. But if anyone regards something as unclean, then for him it is unclean. **15 If your brother is distressed because of what you eat, you are no longer acting in love. Do not by your eating destroy your brother** for whom Christ died. **16 Do not allow what you consider good to be spoken of as evil.** **17** For the kingdom of God is not a matter of eating and drinking, but of righteousness, peace and joy in

the Holy Spirit, **18** because anyone who serves Christ in this way is pleasing to God and approved by men. **19** Let us therefore make every effort to do what leads to peace and to mutual edification. **20 Do not destroy the work of God** for the sake of food. All food is clean, but it is wrong for a man to eat anything that causes someone else to stumble. **21** It is better not to eat meat or drink wine or to do anything else that will cause your brother to fall.

**22** So whatever you believe about these things keep between yourself and God. Blessed is the man who does not condemn himself by what he approves. **23** But the man who has doubts is condemned if he eats, because his eating is not from faith; and **everything that does not come from faith is sin.**

### **The Reminders:**

1. **Don't ever cause other Christians to stumble... (v.13)**
2. **Don't ever cause other Christians to grieve... (v.14-15a)**
3. **Don't ever cause other Christians to be devastated... (v.15b)**
4. **Don't ever sacrifice the impact of your personal witness... (v.16-19)**
5. **Don't ever do anything that tears down God's work... (v.20-21)**
6. **Don't ever denounce/flaunt Christian weakness/strength... (v.22-23)**

### **The Pattern:** Savior-like, loving, lifting, & unifying servitude

**1** We who are strong ought to **bear with** the failings of the weak & **not to please ourselves.** **2 Each of us should please his neighbor for his good, to build him up.** **3 For even Christ did not please himself** but, as it is written: "The insults of those who insult you have fallen on me." **4 For everything that was written** in the past **was written to teach us,** so that through endurance & the encouragement of the Scriptures we might have hope. **5 May the God who gives endurance & encouragement give you a spirit of unity among yourselves as you follow Christ Jesus,** **6 so that with one heart and mouth you may glorify the God & Father of our Lord Jesus Christ.** **7 Accept one another, then, just as Christ accepted you, in order to bring praise to God.** **8** For I tell you that Christ has become a servant of the Jews on behalf of God's truth, to confirm the promises made to the patriarchs **9** so that the Gentiles may glorify God for his mercy, as it is written: "Therefore I will praise you among the Gentiles; I will sing hymns to your name." **10** Again, it says, "Rejoice, O Gentiles, with his people." **11** And again, "Praise the Lord, all you Gentiles, and **sing praises to him, all you peoples.**" **12** And again, Isaiah says, "The Root of Jesse will spring up, One who will arise to rule over the nations; the Gentiles will hope in Him." **13** May the God of hope fill you with all joy & peace as you trust in him, so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Spirit.

## **The Footsteps:**

1. **Bear with one another... (v.1)**
2. **Don't seek to please yourself but rather, build up others... (v.2)**
3. **Always prioritize Christ-likeness... try to be like Jesus... (v.3)**
4. **Submit in all cases to the authority of Scripture... (v.4)**
5. **Seek supernatural wisdom, power, & unity at all times... (v.5)**
6. **Do all things (together or alone) to the glory of God! (v.6)**

## **The Purpose:**

God will be glorified, in part, thru the **unified witness** of His gospel-championing, cross-carrying, joy-filled, hope-overflowing, fully-devoted, followers of Jesus, the Christ!