

THE WEAKER BROTHER 2

Rom 14 ¹ Receive one who is weak in the faith, but not to disputes over doubtful things. ² For one believes he may eat all things, but he who is weak eats only vegetables. 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. 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. ⁵ One person esteems one day above another; another esteems every day alike. Let each be fully convinced in his own mind. ⁶ He who observes the day, observes it to the Lord; and he who does not observe the day, to the Lord he does not observe it. He who eats, eats to the Lord, for he gives God thanks; and he who does not eat, to the Lord he does not eat, and gives God thanks. ⁷ For none of us lives to himself, and no one dies to himself. ⁸ For if we live, we live to the Lord; and if we die, we die to the Lord. Therefore, whether we live or die, we are the Lord's. ⁹ For to this end Christ died and rose and lived again, that He might be Lord of both the dead and the living. ¹⁰ But why do you judge your brother? Or why do you show contempt for your brother? For we shall all stand before the judgment seat of Christ. ¹¹ For it is written: "As I live, says the Lord, Every knee shall bow to Me, And every tongue shall confess to God." ¹² So then each of us shall give account of himself to God. ¹³ Therefore let us not judge one another anymore, but rather resolve this, not to put a stumbling block or a cause to fall in our brother's way. 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. ¹⁵ Yet if your brother is grieved because of your food, you are no longer walking in love. Do not destroy with your food the one for whom Christ died. ¹⁶ Therefore do not let your good be spoken of as evil; ¹⁷ for the kingdom of God is not eating and drinking, but righteousness and peace and joy in the Holy Spirit. ¹⁸ For he who serves Christ in these things is acceptable to God and approved by men. ¹⁹ Therefore let us pursue the things which make for peace and the things by which one may edify another. ²⁰ Do not destroy the work of God for the sake of food. All things indeed are pure, but it is evil for the man who eats with offense. ²¹ It is good neither to eat meat nor drink wine nor do anything by which your brother stumbles or is offended or is made weak. ²² Do you have faith? Have it to yourself before God. Happy is he who does not condemn himself in what he approves. ²³ But he who doubts is condemned if he eats, because he does not eat from faith; for whatever is not from faith is sin. ^{15.1} We then who are strong ought to bear with the scruples of the weak, and not to please ourselves. ² Let each of us please his neighbor for his good, leading to edification. ³ For even Christ did not please Himself; but as it is written, "The reproaches of those who reproached You fell on Me." ⁴ For whatever things were written before were written for our learning, that we through the patience and comfort of the Scriptures might have hope. ⁵ Now may the God of patience and comfort grant you to be like-minded toward one another, according to Christ Jesus, ⁶ that you may with one mind and one mouth glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ. ⁷ Therefore receive one another, just as Christ also received us, to the glory of God. ⁸ Now I say that Jesus Christ has become a servant to the circumcision for the truth of God, to confirm the promises made to the fathers, ⁹ and that the Gentiles might glorify God for His mercy, as it is written: "For this reason I will confess to You among the Gentiles, And sing to Your name." (Ps 18.49) ¹⁰ And again he says: "Rejoice, O Gentiles, with His people!" (Dt 32.43) ¹¹ And again: "Praise the Lord, all you

Gentiles! Laud Him, all you peoples!" (Ps 117.1) ¹² And again, Isaiah says: "There shall be a root of Jesse; And He who shall rise to reign over the Gentiles, In Him the Gentiles shall hope." (Isa 11.1, 10) ¹³ Now may the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.

* **How did** the division over eating meat arise in the Roman church, and what was the main temptation?

* **Why does** Paul conclude by suddenly talking about Jews and Gentiles and by quoting four OT passages?

* **What are** two common misunderstandings of Paul's words here?

* **What is** Paul saying in so many words?

* **Why must** we show grace, love, & patience to one another as we grow in truth and maturity?

* **Paul wants** to create an environment in the church that will foster what?

indulgence of the flesh.

1Tim 4 ¹ Now the Spirit expressly says that ... some will depart from the faith, giving heed to deceiving spirits and doctrines of demons, ² speaking lies in hypocrisy, having their own conscience seared with a hot iron, ³ forbidding to marry, and commanding to abstain from foods which God created to be received with thanksgiving by those who believe and know the truth ... ⁶ If you instruct the brethren in these things, you will be a good minister of Jesus Christ

* **Paul** _____ the floor toward strength and maturity based on the _____ of God's word.

* **If we** get impatient and contemptuous toward fellow Christians who aren't instantly "arrived" at where they ought to be, then we are not acting like _____.

Rm 15 ¹ We then who are strong ought to bear with the scruples of the weak, and not to please ourselves. ² Let each of us please his neighbor for his good, leading to edification. ³ For even Christ did not please Himself

Rm 4 ¹⁴ I know and am convinced by the Lord Jesus that there is nothing unclean of itself ... ²⁰ All things indeed are pure

1Tim 4 ⁴ For every creature of God is good, and nothing is to be refused if it is received with thanksgiving; ⁵ for it is sanctified by the word of God and prayer.

* **Does this** mean that we must become captive to the scruples of the weak?

* **Strong is** having your conscience captive to the _____ of God; weakness is having your conscience captive to your own _____.

* **What does** it mean that "to him who considers anything to be unclean, to him it is unclean"? (Rm 14.14)

Rm 14 ² he who is weak eats only vegetables ... 15 ¹ We then who are strong ought to bear with the scruples of the weak

* **Paul is** commanding grace, love, & patience toward the weak, he is not giving them a _____ to teach or proselytize other Christians toward their view.

* **It's not** just the truth of Christ that creates the environment we need to grow strong and mature, it's also the heart and mind of _____ towards one another. How do we try to do this in our own local congregation?

Col 2.20–23 ²⁰ [W]hy ... do you subject yourselves to regulations — ²¹ "Do not touch, do not taste, do not handle," ²² which all concern things which perish with the using — according to the commandments and doctrines of men? ²³ These things indeed have an appearance of wisdom in self-imposed religion, false humility, and neglect of the body, but are of no value against the