

Romans 181

“Weak and Strong Believers”

Romans 14:1

Weak and strong are relative terms based on the amount of biblical truth in the soul and have little to do with activities or lifestyle.

Both strong and weak believers continue to have sin natures with potential of sin, human good and evil.

The difference between the weak and strong believer is the difference between ignorance and understanding the Word, plus the amount of time under the filling of the Holy Spirit.

Pride often sneaks in and seduces the sleeping believer whether he is weak or strong but that pride shows itself in different ways in the weak and strong believer.

For the weak, his pride judges others with verbal sins and in revenge tactics of retaliation and for the strong, his pride is intolerance of the weak believer that he ridicules.

God's standards of divine viewpoint replace our old standards

of human viewpoint and we don't make this change by someone bullying us or by us bullying others.

The weak believer who is positive toward God's Word is tolerated by the strong believer's flexibility in non-essentials.

Toleration is a key factor regarding the weak believer but separation from the weak believer who remains negative toward biblical truth in rebellion constantly under divine discipline is a divine command and keeping company with him brings disaster by association.

The weak believer's lack of biblical truth means false application, lack of common sense and capacity for life, orientation to reality and authority and lack of grace-orientation.

The strong believer operates on impersonal love and doesn't try to defend himself, apologize or explain himself but the weak believer continues, in order to get a reaction from strong believer and if the strong believer retaliates, he's accepted the weak standards of the weak believer.

The strong believer has attained maturity in the plan of God and he is confident that by continuing in maturity by being challenged regarding eternity in undeserved suffering, he has hope 3: absolute assurance of eternal rewards at the Judgment Seat of Christ.

Divine blessings to the strong believer include undeserved suffering, which demonstrates the power of the Word in his soul making him the person for the crisis.

The strong believer illustrates the principle that if God doesn't promote us, we're not promoted.

The honor code principles like impersonal love, the privacy of the priesthood, inflexibility on the essentials, flexibility on the non-essentials, orients believers to reality, common sense and objectivity.

Each believer must live his life as unto the Lord, not being required to meet the standards of a more advanced believer.

Only the Word of God has the right to intrude on the privacy of another believer's priesthood and the Word must intrude, otherwise he will have false standards to live by.

God does not reject or punish believers based on non-essentials, so it's presumptuous and arrogant to reject a believer God has accepted.

Inequalities demonstrate that freedom abused does not deserve what freedom used deserves.

Some believers are rewarded at the Judgment Seat of Christ and some receive nothing and that's inequality resulting from the freedom of equality.

Freedom does not guarantee equality, it only offers it.

Demanding equality is arrogance but freedom is the motivation of the grace-oriented.

Impersonal love emphasizes the subject doing the loving, observing establishment laws and RFHC principles; recognizing freedom, privacy, property, authority, imputed righteousness and the non-essential opinions of weak believers.

