

Romans # 198

“The Strong and the Weak Revisited”

Romans 16:17-18

The more we learn of biblical truth, the more we know what a weak or a strong believer is.
Our standard for understanding situations or people we are associated with does not have to do with morality vs immorality or legalism vs lawlessness; it has to do with understanding weak vs strong believers.

The strong believer can understand that in avoiding the rebellious weak believer, he doesn't hinder his recovery but helps it if he's willing to change.

Every person in emotional rebellion is a potential trap for the strong or growing believer.
Every person who has an outward sweetness in self-righteousness yet no interest in the Word of God is arrogant, so be watchful of them trying to impose their ideas on biblical truth because they are traps.

So, to protect ourselves from this apostasy, we must have the ability to discern without becoming weak, vicious or vengeful in counter-attacking with our own mental attitude sins.

The weak rebellious believer is not authority-oriented; he's under the control of his own arrogant emotion and he seeks to build a mutual admiration society with his smooth flattering speech.

The rebellious believer rejects the authority of the Word so he doesn't serve or obey TLJC.
It's inevitable that the weak rebellious believer in his arrogance will be a slave to his emotion and only serve himself.

Fundamentalist Christianity has traded its doctrinal heritage for a bowl of pottage with emotion as the standard and arrogance as the motivator of the soul.

PEOPLE TESTING COMES IN 2 CATEGORIES:

1) In personal love or admiration, the object of our love often controls our life and can provide unhappiness for us unless we have spiritual maturity.

2) In personal hatred or animosity, the object of our anger or irritation often has control of our lives and happiness unless we've advanced spiritually.

The solution to people testing is personal love for God and impersonal love for everyone else which is virtue love.

Without virtue love, we're constantly surrendering control of our life to others.

When we become jealous, angry, bitter, vindictive, dissatisfied or antagonistic toward someone else; friend or stranger, loved one or enemy; we surrender control of our life to that person.

People can only become a distraction to the fulfillment of the plan of God when human relationships become more important to us than biblical truth.

When personal ambition is stronger than our desire for biblical truth, we've lost our scale of values and priorities.

So, love or hatred, attraction or repulsion, friendship or enemy retaliation can distract us from fulfilling the plan of God and glorifying our Lord Jesus Christ; unless we've passed momentum testing.

Impersonal love is the most misunderstood and underrated factor of the spiritual life.

Since happiness belongs to God and His plan, we can't depend on people or circumstances for it and if we surrender our happiness to someone else, we'll blame them for everything that goes wrong in our lives.

The sooner our friends reach SSE, the more peaceful our lives will be because they will tolerate us as we are.

Impersonal love is a combination of our honor, integrity and objectivity.

Worldly appeal is based on arrogance, which may be disguised in the form of flattery, intelligence, affection or even passion.

We need to remember from this list of names that these Christians were noted for their steadfast, tested, faithful commitment to the Gospel of Jesus Christ.