

The Weak and Strong
Romans 14

Two big controversies in the Early Church involved diet and days. Christians with a Jewish background who were convinced that they needed to adhere to all the Old Testament feasts and celebrations. Christians with a background in idolatry may have participated in food sacrificed to idols and didn't really care about the Old Testament.

There are two very helpful challenges in this passage of Scripture...

1) Accept one another.

The term "weak", does not refer to weakness in personality or weak in belief. When someone became a Christian, their old way of life and old way of thinking did not go away immediately. Habits of thought and habits of life continue for a while. It takes time to develop an understanding of what Jesus has done for you.

You may have noticed in this chapter that Paul does not tell them which decision is right or wrong. There are a lot of occasions when the Christian has freedom to choose. We call this liberty.

Where liberty is NOT limited by law, it IS limited by love.

2) Edify one another.

Build each other up. Encourage one another. Live in such a way that your choices are made in consideration of your brothers and sisters in Christ.

Consider this:

Is there anything in your life that you presently do or don't do for the sake of brothers & sisters in Christ?

Romans 14:23 carries an additional layer to this challenge: If you see a brother or sister in Christ who is in a pattern of sin, you should say something. Accepting, loving, and not judging brothers and sisters in Christ does NOT mean ***you think lightly of sin***. It is not a loving thing to watch a fellow Christian continue in sin. You are not caring for your brothers and sisters in Christ if you watch them live outside of faith in Christ.