

# Romans 14:1

## Receive the Weak

### 1. Review:

- a. This new chapter about our presentation/service, this time toward the weak.
- b. These chapters matter for service but are often misconstrued to exercise self-will.
- c. Our service as members (12), as subject (13) as strong in faith (14) ← mature responsibility

### 2. 14:1 - Receive the Weak

- a. *"Him that is weak"* - They do exist! (But it's never us, eh?)
- b. *"in the faith"* does not say, "not in the faith", unsaved, barely saved, not enough - Eph 1:13
  - i. Faith is necessary for salvation - Eph 2:8-9, Rom 3:26, 4:5 (faith is not a work)
- c. *"receive ye"* - The instruction is to receive (welcome), not reject, refuse, cut off the weak
  - i. [A time to refuse, reject, avoid, not for weak in the faith - Ti 3:10, Ro 16:17, Ga 5:12]
  - ii. The church is not where only the strong survive, but where the weak are received.
  - iii. Who is doing the receiving? Not the weak. The strong in grace and faith 2 Tim 2:1-6
  - iv. Faith by hearing (Rom 10:17) elders are able by sound doctrine - Ti 1:9-11, 1Ti 4:4-6
  - v. "Receive" does not mean to enable, be silent, let them lead, teach, hold office, etc.
  - vi. Not an admonition for the weak to receive the strong. Don't seek weak acceptance.
- d. Welcome to grow in the faith in the knowledge of Christ - 2Th 1:3, Eph 3:16,4:15, Ga 4:19

### 3. Doubtful Disputations (What it is not)

- a. It is NOT disputation that does not matter, unclear, confusing, unsettled - Rom 14:5, 14
- b. It's NOT essential v. non-essential, secondary, tertiary issues - Col 2:16, Gal 4:10-11, 1Co 8:1
- c. It is NOT about letting people do things that are wicked, sinful, wrong - 1Cor 5:2,5, 2Th 3:14
- d. It is NOT an instruction to 'not argue about what is right and wrong' NLT or 'opinions' NASB
- e. Those that argue against arguing doctrine, turn care to compromise by denying "the faith"
- f. If there is a strong and weak in the faith – then 'the faith' must be understood to discern.

### 4. Doubtful Disputations (What it is)

- a. It does refer to disputations that start in doubt and end in the destruction of faith - 14:23
- b. 2 Tim 2:14 gives a similar instruction about care for the hearers, weak in faith, "strive not"
- c. We receive the weak to edify them, not destroy them with our knowledge = this is charity
- d. Paul disputed, stood against, contended, strived for the faith - Phi 1:27, Eph 6:11, 1 Th 2:2
  - i. When dispute with error protects the weak, it is loving (not destroy faith) - Acts 15:2
  - ii. There must be a dispute for evangelism to occur (faith is a message) - Acts 17:16-17
  - iii. When disputing strengthens faith, it is edifying (not producing doubt) - Acts 19:9
  - iv. Paul did not pick a fight in the temple of his kinsmen (they did) - Acts 24:12
- e. Doubtful disputations result in defiling/destruction of weaker brother's faith - 1Cor 8:7-12
- f. Paul becomes "all things to all men" ... to "gain the weak" - 1 Cor 9:19, 10:32-33, Ro 14:21
- g. Don't be a door mat, but don't let your stand be a stumbling block, but a steppingstone.
- h. The church teaches, preaches, edifies, grows in faith, it should not hide/hinder/destroy it.
- i. We receive the weak, not to keep him weak, mock his weakness, or make him weaker,  
... but to edify and strengthen him in the faith.