

## OUR RELATION TO THE WEAK? 2 Corinthians 11:29

### 1. Sympathy for the Weak. *Who is weak, and I am not weak?*

Who is weak and I do not feel his weakness? Who falls without my desiring to help him?

Weak Christian: easily led into sin. Vulnerable. Easily led astray

There were "*older, more mature*" Christians who had very little concern for the well-being of spiritual babies. 1 Cor 8:9-13; Rom 14:15,16

Body of Christ needs to give some strong consideration to the growth levels of members

Baby Christian: Weak, Envy, Strife, carnal/fleshly desires, lack of knowledge of the Word (1 Cor.3; Heb.5). New believers or saved for years.

Mature Christian: Has depth and uses Word. Has wisdom and understanding Practices deeper doctrines (Heb.5).

One of evidences of growth in children is ability to move from objective thinking to subjective.

One of main things look for in true servant is concern for weak.

1 Th 5:14

1. Unruly. *warn them that are unruly,*

Careless, out of line, disorderly, undisciplined, playing truant.

*Warn*: sharp rebuke.

2. Feebleminded. *Comfort the feebleminded,*

*Little-souled, fainthearted."* ... quitters...*crisis-oriented*

*Comfort*: encourage; get close to them and speak tenderly.

Encourage to see whole picture.

3. Weak. *Support the weak*. Sickly, without strength, morally vulnerable.

*Wiersbe*: Usually, the weak Christians were afraid of their liberty in Christ.

*They lived by rules and regulations. In the Roman assemblies, the weak*

*Christians would not eat meat, and they held to the Jewish system of holy*

*days. They were severe in their judgment of the mature saints who enjoyed all foods and all days."*

How are we to handle them?

*Support:* Hold fast, not let go, hold out long before taking action. *Take hold* of weaker believers and help them stand & walk in Lord.

4. All men. *Be patient toward all men.* Show longsuffering toward all men.

See potential ...take long look before being harsh and unkind.

John 11:33-36; Heb 4:15

Rom 15:1 ...*bear the infirmities of the weak.* Stronger believers are to help carry their burdens. ...work through scruples and prejudices with them.

*not to please ourselves:* Don't just do your own thing. Gal 6:1,2

What makes people thirsty for Christ?

*Testimony:* 1. Love for God and others. 2. Verbal expression of gospel. John 13:35

**2. Outrage when weaker brother caused to stumble. 29. *who is offended, and I burn not?***

**Offended:** tripped up; caused to stumble; enticed to sin; morally and spiritually hurt.

**...and I burn not?** I am inflamed, ignited, glowing, on fire with fury against the one who caused him to stumble. Mat 18:6

Whose job is it to make sure the weaker brethren don't fall into sin?

Heb 3:12,13

*Kruse: When Paul sees Christians weak in faith he feels their vulnerability, and when he sees them made to fall he burns with indignation against the behaviour of those who caused it.*

## **So what?**

Where are you in the growth process? Weak...strong...baby...mature?

What is your attitude toward others in the church?

Compassion toward the weak?

Outrage at those who cause the weak to stumble?