

STRONG & WEAK FAITH — RO.14:1-12

Who is **STRONG** in faith



The strong hold the weak in contempt as *legalistic* and *self-righteous*

- Our **faith is strong** in an area if we can survive contact with worldly people without falling into their patterns
- The **strong** tends to despise the weak and call them *immature*
- If we have a **strong faith** but shelter it, we are not doing Christ's work in the world

Who is **WEAK** in faith



The weak judge the strong to be *irresponsible* and *depraved*

- Our **faith is weak** in an area if we must avoid certain activities, people, or places in order to protect our spiritual life
- The **weak** tends to judge the strong and call them *unspiritual*
- If we have a **weak faith** but expose it, we are being foolish. His faith falters and hesitates in matters of conduct

Weak Jewish Believer

- The **weak Jewish believer** had difficulty abandoning the rites and prohibitions of the old covenant. He felt compelled to adhere to dietary laws, and observe the Sabbath.
- The **Jewish believer** is drawn to stay with his past.
- Paul is speaking about immature faith that has not yet developed the 'muscle' it needs to stand against external pressures. We are all weak in some areas and strong in others.

Weak Gentile Believer

- The **weak Gentile believer** had been steeped in pagan idolatry. He felt that any contact with anything related to his past tainted him with sin.
- The **Gentile believer** is drawn to leave his past.

• The one who **eats meat** gives thanks to God from his heart (14:6).

• It is not what is on the table, but what is in the heart that is noted by God.

• The one who **does not eat meat** gives thanks to God from his heart (14:6).