

A Gospel Worldview – Lesson 16

The Weak and the Strong

Romans 14:1 – 15:13

Question: What can cause division within the church?

A. Why are the Jews The Weak Group?

- The most discipline of the groups in the Roman church was considered the weaker group.
- Rules and traditions supported their faith vs. the Gentiles who believed that their Faith provided more freedom.

B. Issues Dividing the Roman Church

- Food – The issue was not that the Jews could not eat meat. The issue is that they were concerned if the meat was prepared in a Kosher manner. Therefore, they believed it was best not to eat meat if they could not guarantee how it was prepared.
- Sabbath – Should the worship of God by the church be on a Sunday or on the Sabbath, which is a Saturday.

C. Do Not Be a Stumbling Block

- Do not do something in front of somebody if it would go against that person's conscience and understanding of right and wrong.
- Comparisons Today – This verse is not really about if you should drink alcohol or not in front of others. (While that might be the correct moral obligation.) Unless they believe that a Christian should not drink.
- Main Idea: Encouraging a person to go against his belief of "right and wrong" is WRONG.

D. Accept Each Other and Do Not be Judgmental.

- "Bear other's failures." Bear is the same word used in Galatians 6:2 to bear each other's failures.
- Being accepting of others will provide hope and unity, so that you can praise God.

