

Romans Series

Lesson #151

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Dean Bible Ministries

www.deanbibleministries.org

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Essentials and Non-Essentials

Romans 14:3–13

OUR WORKS
FILTHY RAGS



CHRIST'S
PERFECT
RIGHTEOUSNESS
& THE CROSS



ROMANS

GOD'S RIGHTEOUSNESS & GRACE

Rom. 14:1, “Receive one who is weak in the faith, but not to disputes over doubtful things.”

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**διάκρισις *diakrasis*
acc fem plur
dispute, dissolution**

Rom. 14:1, “Receive one who is weak in the faith, but not to disputes over doubtful things.”

διάκρισις *diakrasis*
acc fem plur
quarrel, dispute,
dissolution

διαλογισμός *dialogismos*
gen masc plur
opinion, ideas,
discussion

The problem is defined as “unclean” food which suggests something related to the Mosaic dietary laws.

Rom. 14:14, “I know and am convinced by the Lord Jesus that there is nothing unclean of itself; but to him who considers anything to be unclean, to him it is unclean.”

Weaker

Humility

Uncertain

Uninformed

Grace-oriented

Easily influenced

Mature

Humility

**Thoughtful
Conviction**

**DVP, open to
correction**

Grace-oriented

**Not easily
influenced**

Legalist/Pharisee

Arrogant

**Thoughtful
Conviction**

**Not open to
correction**

Works-oriented

**Not easily
influenced,
but quickly takes
offense**

Rom. 14:2, “For one believes he may eat all things, but he who is weak eats only vegetables.”

The issue: Judging one another over non-essentials.

Rom. 14:3, “Let not him who eats despise him who does not eat, and let not him who does not eat judge him who eats; for God has received him.”

**ἐξουθενέω *exoutheneō*
pres act impera 3 sing
to despise, to reject
with contempt**

**κρίνω *krinō*
pres act
impera 3 sing
to judge**

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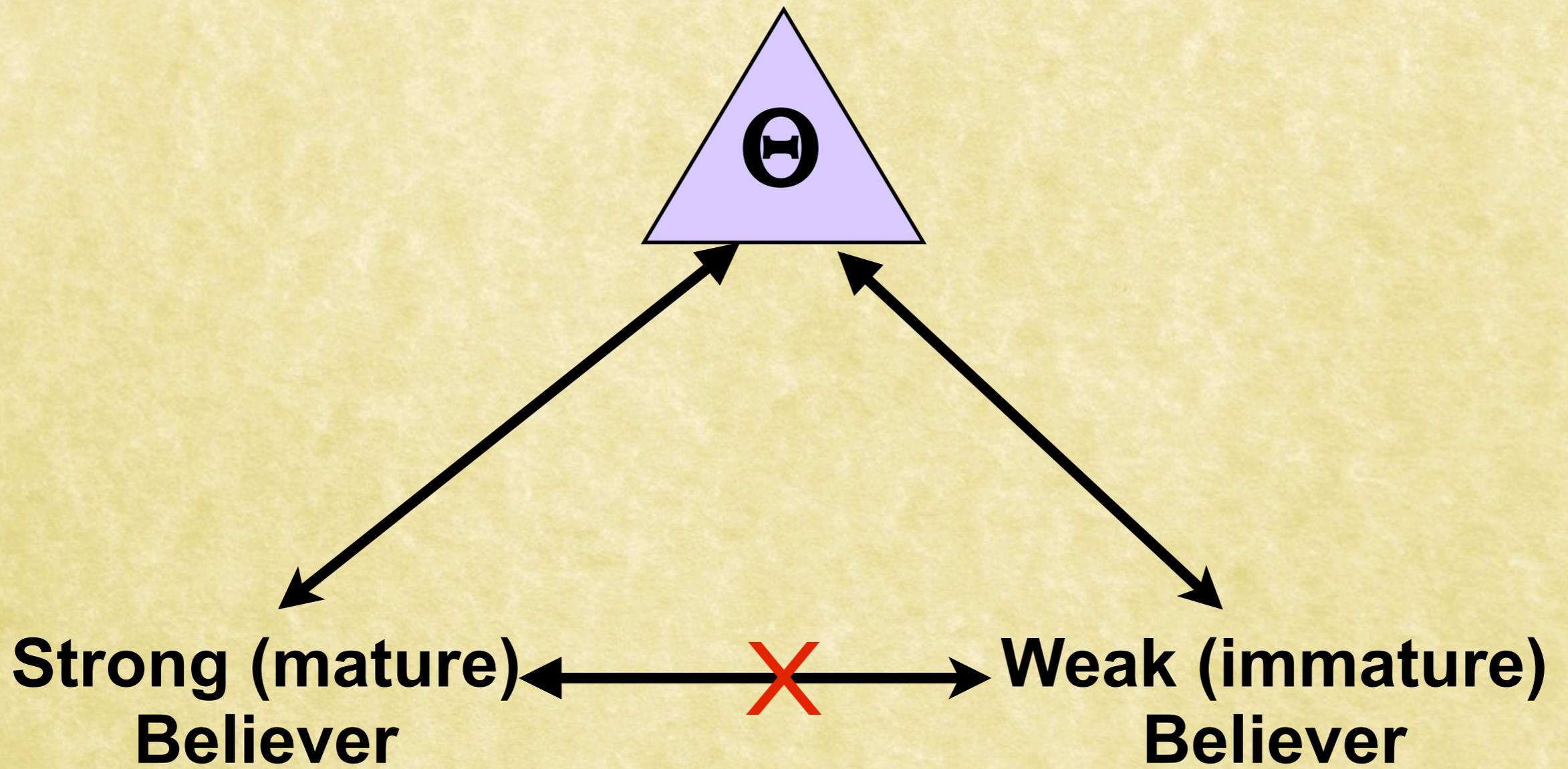
προσλαμβάνω *proslambanō*

pres mid impera 2 plur

**to receive, accept into one's company or
fellowship [same word used in 14:3]**

Rom. 14:4, “Who are you to judge another’s servant? To his own master he stands or falls. Indeed, he will be made to stand, for God is able to make him stand.”

**κρίνω *krinō*
pres act ptcp
“to judge”**



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Law of Love

The ultimate rule for the believer's life (John 13:34, 35). A spiritual law based on consideration for others, including immature, untaught, or ignorant believers (1 Cor. 8:13). This rule places love for the weaker Christian ahead of the law of liberty.

Law of Liberty

A spiritual ordinance directed toward one's self that expresses the believer's freedom to glorify the Lord. The rule confers on every believer the right to enter into any activity that is not sinful and will not cause personal failure in the Christian life (1 Cor. 8:4, 8–9).

Law of Expediency

A spiritual ordinance based on consideration for the unbeliever. A believer refrains from doubtful activities not because they are sinful, but because they may mislead or offend an unbeliever and prevent him from recognizing the true issue of the Gospel, that Christ died for his sins.

Law of Personal Sacrifice

A spiritual principle directed toward God that involves the abandonment of a completely legitimate function in life, in order to more intensely serve the Lord in a specialized capacity (1 Cor. 9:4–6). The motive underlying this sacrifice is always evangelism and spiritual growth of the individual believer.

1 Cor. 8:7, “However not all men have this knowledge; but some, being accustomed to the idol until now, eat food as if it were sacrificed to an idol; and their conscience being weak is defiled.”

The weaker brother is weak:

in FAITH – Romans 14:1, 23

Rom. 14:23, “But he who doubts is condemned if he eats, because he does not eat from faith; for whatever is not from faith is sin.”

The weaker brother is weak:

in KNOWLEDGE – 1 Cor. 8:7

1 Cor. 8:4, “Therefore concerning the eating of things offered to idols, we know that an idol is nothing in the world, and that there is no other God but one.”

1 Cor. 8:7, “However, there is not in everyone that knowledge; for some, with consciousness of the idol, until now eat it as a thing offered to an idol; and their conscience, being weak, is defiled.”

The weaker brother is weak:

in CONSCIENCE

1 Cor. 8:10, “For if anyone sees you who have knowledge eating in an idol’s temple, will not the conscience of him who is weak be emboldened to eat those things offered to idols?”

1 Cor. 8:11, “And because of your knowledge shall the weak brother perish, for whom Christ died?”

1 Cor. 8:12, “But when you thus sin against the brethren, and wound their weak conscience, you sin against Christ.”

Conscience: The location of norms and standards in the soul

- 1. As unbelievers we learn a variety of norms and standards which may or may not be compatible with Scripture.**
- 2. Many norms and standards ingrained in the conscience of an unbeliever are biblically false.**
- 3. The presence of absolutes in the soul is an indicator of the existence of God, Rom. 2.**
- 4. A weak conscience is one that has norms and standards that are not derived from the Bible.**
- 5. Therefore, when someone with a weak conscience finds rationalization to go against itself, without Biblical support he sets a precedent for violating correct norms later on.**