



Dealing with Different Kinds of Difficult People, Part 2

1 Thessalonians 5:14

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I. The Wayward

- Group number one is “the unruly”. Out of either apathy or rebellion, they’re not interested in learning or serving.
- How do you deal with the wayward? You admonish them.



II. The Worried

- The second group is “the fainthearted,” a term that means “small souled.” They are the worriers.
- To deal with the worried, Paul said, “Encourage them.”



III. The Weak

- The weak Christian in this context is weak both in faith and conscience in relation to specific issues. Christian who are weak in faith believe that if they engage in a neutral thing, they will sin.
- The weak in this passage were probably Christians with a Jewish background. They came from a background that observed the Sabbath and abstinence from nonkosher foods and wine (Rom.14:21).



III. The Weak

- How do you help them? Paul's word for "**help**" means "hold tightly to," or "support."
- As Christians, we are free in Christ. And although we have freedom, God does NOT command that we always exercise those freedoms. But rather, we ought to relinquish personal liberties for the sake of fellow believers.



Different types of weak Christians:

- Immature weak Christian: person who feels that it is wrong to participate in a doubtful area, and every Christian should think the same way. Confuse biblical standards with their own personal opinions. Legalistic or judgmental.
- Mature weak Christian: knowledge frees him to allow others to disagree with his personal opinion. The mind has knowledge but the heart does not feel the freedom to go ahead.



A strong Christian is one whose strong faith and conscience allows him the freedom to participate in a debated matter without sinning. In this passage, the strong were probably Gentile believers (Romans 14:17).



Different types of strong Christians:

- **Mature strong Christian**: Christians may decide not to participate in certain neutral issues for many reasons. If someone could be hurt, the loving response is to give up one's right.
- **Immature strong Christian**: Some believers insist that no other Christian has the right to tell them what they can or cannot do.



Paul commands the strong to limit their freedom for three reasons:

- To avoid causing a brother to sin.
- To avoid degrading our freedom in Christ.
- To please one another (both weak and strong)



Conclusion

- *1 Thessalonians 5:14, “Be patient with everyone.”*
- *“Patience is the ability to put up with people you’d like to put down.”*