

STRONGER, WEAKER BELIEVERS / *1 Corinthians 8:9*

Paul advises those who are more mature in the faith about how they must care about their brothers and sisters in Christ who have more tender consciences; those “weaker” brothers and sisters are advised concerning their growth; and pastors and leaders are instructed on how to deal with the conflicts that easily could arise between these groups.

Advice to:

Stronger believer	Don't be proud of your maturity; don't flaunt your freedom. Act in love so you do not cause a weaker believer to stumble.
Weaker believer	Although you may not feel the same freedom in some areas as in others, take your time and pray to God, but do not force others to adhere to your stipulations. You would hinder other believers by making up rules and standards for how everyone ought to behave. Make sure your convictions are based on God's Word and are not simply an expression of your opinions.
Pastors and leaders	Teach correctly from God's Word, helping Christians understand what is right and wrong in God's eyes and helping them see that they can have varied opinions on other issues and still be unified. Don't allow potential problems to get out of hand, causing conflicts and divisions.