

# Two Things Christians Should Avoid

Rom. 14:21

## Introduction:

- A. Romans 14 and 15 is basically addressed to strong Christians (14:1; 15:1).
  - 1. Should be especially careful in exercising certain liberties (14:14 -15:3)
  - 2. Should avoid anything by which a brother stumbles, is offended or made weak.
    - a. Stumble and offend are basically synonymous in application – to fall or made to fall.
    - b. Weak is a little different – may lead to stumbling and falling.
  - 3. Should avoid these himself and causing them in others.
- B. Hence, our subject is “two things Christians should avoid.”

## Discussion:

### I. Christians Should Avoid Being Made to Fall.

- A. The stronger one is the more he realizes the danger (cf. 1 Cor. 9:27; Heb. 3:12-13).
- B. The more *self*-confident the greater the danger (1 Cor. 10:12).
- C. The Christian has help (1 Cor 12:13; Jude 24).
- D. There are many ways one can be made to fall:
  - 1. By believing a lie (2 Thess. 2:12; 2 Tim. 4:2-4).
  - 2. By neglecting duty (Heb. 2:1-4).
  - 3. By being overcome by various temptations (Jas. 1:12-15)

### II. Christians Should Avoid Being Made Weak.

- A. Often have a one dimensional test of our conduct.
  - 1. Is it a sin or not?
  - 2. Will it cause me to be lost or not?
  - 3. Will it cost me the fellowship of the church or not?
- B. Need another dimension to our test.
  - 1. Will be help or hinder? (Cf. 1 Cor. 6:12; 10:23 NKJV).
  - 2. Will it strengthen or weaken?
- C. Wise Christians strengthen themselves against spiritual failure.
  - 1. By improving knowledge, discernment and spiritual skills (Heb. 5:12-13).
  - 2. By constantly adding “Christian graces” (2 Pet. 1:5-10).
  - 3. By avoiding weakening situations.
    - a. Relationships (1 Cor. 7; 2 Cor. 6:14-16).
    - b. Environments (1 Cor. 8:9-13; 10:1-12).
    - c. Companionships (1 Cor. 15:33).

## Conclusion:

- A. Need to be concerned with falling.
- B. But need also to be concerned with being strong.