

## **A FIRST PROBLEM: DIET. Romans 14:2-3; 1 Corinthians 8.**

- ❖ The pagan priests sold meat that was sacrificed to idols.
- ❖ There was a discussion among believers about if it was right to eat that meat.
- ❖ **THE PROBLEM:** The strong criticized the weak because they didn't eat meat offered to idols; the weak were tempted to doubt their faith.
- ❖ **WHO WERE THE WEAK?** Those who could not eat meat offered to idols with a clean conscience because of their background or education.
- ❖ **WHO WERE THE STRONG?** Those who believed that there is only one true God and the idols are nothing; therefore, the meat offered to idols could not be corrupted.

## **B SECOND PROBLEM: FESTIVITIES. Romans 14:6; Colossians 2:16; Galatians 4:9-10.**

- ❖ Some Jew brothers believed that they must keep the ceremonial festivities (new moons, ritual Sabbaths, Passover, Pentecost, Atonement Day ...) and fasting days (Monday and Thursday).
- ❖ **THE PROBLEM:** The weak wanted to impose the strong the observance of the festivities.
- ❖ **WHO WERE THE WEAK?** Those who believed that they must keep every festivity that were established by Jewish rituals and tradition.
- ❖ **WHO WERE THE STRONG?** Those who believed that Jewish festivities were an image of Christ and they came to an end when He came and died.

## **C PAUL FINDS SOLUTIONS**

- ❖ The strong must not judge the weak (Romans 14:4)
  - God accepts and supports everyone.
- ❖ Do not judge or despise anybody (Romans 14:10-21)
  - God will judge everyone; each of us will render account for ourselves, not for others.
  - When we judge, we are a stumbling block or an insult for our brothers. Our brother—for whom Christ died—could weaken or leave the faith because of us.
- ❖ Everyone must act according to his own conscience, without forcing others (Romans 14:22-23)
  - We must act according to what we believe.
  - If we are wrong, God will help us to understand it when He thinks it's the right moment.
- ❖ Do what is pleasant to our neighbor (Romans 15:1-3)
  - "Let each of us please his neighbor for his good, leading to edification." (Romans 15:2)
  - We must spiritually encourage our neighbor and help him in his personal growth to perfection.