

## TYRANNY

### ROMANS 14:22-15:3

*How did you see God working in your life this week? (Romans 1:11, 12)*

BACKGROUND: Disputable matters are innumerable. They may be “worship wars” (choirs versus praise teams), baptism rules and customs, dress and grooming, theology, traditions, and even Bible translations and heavy-handed leadership. All may stem from correct Bible doctrine. But taken out of context, polarized views can surface and threaten the life of the local church.

**OF THE WEAK IN FAITH**—One characteristic of the weak in faith is pride, and this pride keeps them theologically stuck. See Kenneth S. Wuest, Word Studies in the New Testament, Volume I (Romans), p. 32. Loving teaching and loving fellowship may foster humility and acceptance, which help lead the weak to experience grace and joy in the Holy Spirit. The leadership must continue teaching all believers their freedom in Christ. (**Romans 14:22, 23, fn 14:23, fn 15:5-7, James 4:6, fn 4:4-6, Proverbs 16:18, fn 16:18, Acts 17:10-12, fn 17:11**) *How is caving in to the theology and leadership of the weak wrong?*

**OF THE STRONG IN FAITH**—Like the weak, the strong in faith have a problem with pride. They can use their knowledge to hammer home and crush the heart and the love of Christ out of the Scriptures. (**Romans 15:1-3, I Peter 5:3-6, fn 5:5, I Corinthians 8:1-3, fn 8:1-3, I Corinthians 8:11, 12, John 5:39, 40, fn 5:39, 40, Matthew 20:25-28, fn 20:24, Proverbs 27:17, fn 27:17**) *How could you counsel a brother or sister who is authoritarian?*

**OF BOTH**—They both need Christ to breathe love into their lives each moment. Both need to set a priority of having Christ look good in them and not themselves. (**Romans 15:2-5, Romans 12:9, 10, 16-21, fn 12:16, fn 12:17-21, II Timothy 2:22-26, fn 2:23-26, Colossians 3:12-14, fn 3:14, I John 4:7-13, fn 4:12, Revelation 2:1-7, fn 2:2, 3**) *What is the most important part you have to play in your group, and how could you stay on target?*

*Check up—Are you praying with your spouse and your family? Group—Pray for personal requests and bond together by fellowshipping together.*