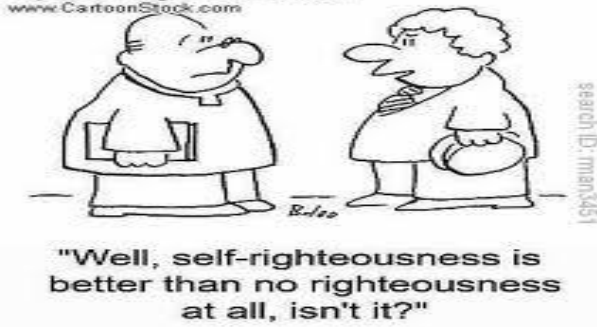


DAILY DOCTRINE: The Weak-Legalistic (Romans 14)
<http://www.fbcweb.org/Doctrines/bel-weak.pdf>



(Fallacy of false dilemma)

1. The strong believer is oriented to the plan of God (grace) and generally operates in the power of the Holy Spirit.
2. Weak-legalistic believer is disoriented to grace and practices one or more forms of legalism. For example, he may believe that drinking alcohol is sinful or that you must feel sorry for your sins to be forgiven.
3. The weak-legalistic believer should not be confused with a new believer.
4. The weak-legalistic believer is strong on scruples but ignorant of doctrine, even though he may have been saved many years.
5. Since the weak-legalistic believer is ignorant of doctrine, he necessarily reverts to human legalistic standards. He confuses legitimate morality with the supernatural Christian way of life. He does not realize that anything an unbeliever can do is not spiritual.
6. The weak-legalistic believer operates on criteria such as emotions, feelings, tradition, and background rather than doctrine. He has a series of responses that can be found in a number of unbelievers with a similar background (e.g., self-righteousness, tabooism, asceticism, horror at certain sins, et al).
7. The weak-legalistic believer operates in the energy of the flesh, producing human good which he construes as production of divine good. Therefore, he lives under tremendous delusion.
8. The weak-legalistic believer is very proud and critical of the strong grace-oriented believer.
9. The weak-legalistic believer often intrudes into the affairs of others by gossiping, maligning, and condemning.

10. The weak-legalistic believer sets up a mold (false standard of righteousness) and tries to squeeze everyone into it. He is generally a bully.
11. The weak-legalistic believer is jealous of others and tries to discredit them. Therefore he is constantly nitpicking and condemning the actions of others. The weak-legalistic believer is a muckraker.
12. The weak-legalistic believer has a guilt complex which makes him emotionally unstable. She is sensitive and demands attentions. She is easily moved into self-pity and generally operates on approbation lust (need and desire for approval by others).
13. The weak-legalistic believer may appear to be interested in Bible doctrine, but not in reality is not a true truth-seeker. The reason certain weak-legalistic believers “like” Bible doctrine is because the terminology makes them feel spiritual and smart. With the legalistic believer the terminology becomes the standard instead of the truths those terminologies represent.
14. The weak-legalistic believer remains weak because he never gets to Truth. For him it is all about form or appearances and being “righteous.” Without truth he never gets it with respect to grace.
15. The weak-legalistic believer can become a strong grace oriented believer but only through Truth—knowledge of Bible doctrine.

Doctrine matters!

Pastor Don