

Comfort the Feeble-minded

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1 Thessalonians 5:14 Now we exhort you, brethren, warn them that are unruly, comfort the feeble-minded, support the weak, be patient toward all men.

1 Peter 1:13 Wherefore gird up the loins of your mind, be sober, and hope to the end for the grace that is to be brought unto you at the revelation of Jesus Christ;

Ephesians 6:14 Stand therefore, having your loins girt about with truth, and having on the breastplate of righteousness;

- I. To be feeble means to be weak, faint, and unable to be resolute and do something.
 - A. To be physically feeble means:
 1. To be weak and destitute of much strength,
 2. Sick or debilitated by disease or injury,
 3. Debilitated by age or decline of life.
 - B. To be feeble-minded is to be weak in mind; wanting firmness or constancy; irresolute.
 1. This can be the result of the same things that cause us to be feeble physically.
 - C. Feeble minds and feeble bodies go together most of the time, but not always.
 1. Old age, sickness, and lack of confidence in one's physical ability will cause the mind to grow feeble.
 2. When we cannot resolve in our minds to do something our body deteriorates and becomes feeble as well.
 3. When we cannot perform physically the things that our mind knows to do then our mind becomes feeble and irresolute about everything.
- II. There are always folks among us that are feeble-minded.
 - A. God has given us instructions in his Word about taking care of those among us who are not mature or whole.
 - B. We always have the poor, the sick, the lame, the downtrodden, the blind, and we are told how we are to deal with them.
 - C. No matter how much we teach and live the truth, there will always be among every family, every church, and every group of people some who are feeble-minded, or crippled, or blind, or lame, or otherwise afflicted.
 - D. We must learn to believe that and accept that reality instead of reacting to it with frustration and judgmental anger.
 - E. God has said this:

Romans 15:1 We then that are strong ought to bear the infirmities of the weak, and not to please ourselves.

Galatians 6:1 Brethren, if a man be overtaken in a fault, ye which are spiritual, restore such an one in the spirit of meekness; considering thyself, lest thou also be tempted.

Galatians 6:2 Bear ye one another's burdens, and so fulfil the law of Christ.

- III. Feeble-mindedness manifests itself in various ways.
 - A. There are those whose minds simply cannot grasp a large view of things.
 1. They are those who are focused on a narrow view all the time.

2. They can do well if they are focused on one thing, but if they are required to deal with multiple things at once they will crash and burn.
 3. Spiritually, these people will focus on one area of truth at a time, and if they are challenged to put many truths together to get a bigger picture they just cannot do it.
 4. Sickness and age affect us in this matter, and those who were strong become feeble and weak.
- B. The inability to see anything but a very narrow view keeps us in a state of weakness in our mind.
1. People who are feeble in mind or body find their comfortable place and refuse to leave it.
 2. They may have a desire to venture out, but they cannot resolve to do it.
 3. Therefore, their state is fixed and there is no way for them to go but down further into weakness.
- C. Feeble-minded people are easily deceived and led astray.
1. Because of their inability and/or reluctance to learn and have a larger view they lack knowledge, and therefore understanding.
 2. The best they can figure, they must have rules and guidelines to live by, because they lack judgment and the ability to discern between good and evil and the roads that lead there.
 3. They are easily led astray by curiosity and the enticement of the things of this world.

2 Peter 2:14 referring to the false teachers: "...beguiling unstable souls..."

4. The feeble-minded are much more susceptible to the madness around us.
5. So there will always be people among us who are unstable and falling overboard all the time, or off on some tangent somewhere.

IV. Comfort the feeble-minded.

- A. To comfort literally means to strengthen, to invigorate, to enliven.
- B. All comfort is given this way – it is simply “encouragement.”

ENCOUR'AGE, To give courage to; to give or increase confidence of success; to inspire with courage, spirit, or strength of mind; to embolden; to animate; to incite; to inspirit.

- C. Instead of being frustrated with people who are weak-minded we are to strengthen them in their mind.
- D. We must realize that we ALL suffer from feeble-mindedness to some extent.
 1. How must we look in God's sight in this matter?
 2. We should then consider how God deals with all of us in our feeble-mindedness and go and do likewise with our family and our neighbor.
- E. The best thing we can do for the feeble-minded is be a faithful consistent example to them.
 1. Everyone of us needs to have something – someone in our lives that is stable and unchanging.
 2. That in itself is a source of strength that we all draw upon.
- F. The next thing we should do is point them to Christ, who is the Rock of our salvation.
 1. There are some faithful people, but the best people are still not as solid and unchanging as Christ.
 2. We cannot actually impart strength to the feeble-minded, but we can put them in touch with One who can.