

## *Comfort the Feeble-minded*

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

“Oh! Hi Tim. Tim, this is Daniel. Daniel, this is Tim. I met Daniel at the park today.” This was the introduction to the man sitting at my dining room table. I had just come into my apartment after work. My roommate was fixing Daniel something to eat.

Daniel looked “homeless.” He wasn’t. He lived in a half-way house in Oakland, California. Daniel was drawing Social Security income although he was only in his early 40s. His mental and emotional level was sub-par. Therefore, he qualified for government assistance. He could do a certain amount of physical and mental work, but could not do that consistently long term.

Daniel started coming to church. After he was baptized and received the Holy Ghost, we let him move in with us. His treatment at the facility he lived in was not good. The goal for us was to help him manage his own money and get a room to rent.

There are many details to Daniel’s story. Everyone has a history. He was my roommate more than once while he attended our church and we were trying to help him. Those details aren’t that important. This article is about how we handle different people.

My pastor at that time told me he was praying, asking God, “How can I help Daniel?” The Lord’s response was the above portion of scripture, “Comfort the feeble-minded.”

The result of the “fall of man” is that there are many flaws. Some flaws are “physical.” I present that varying levels of brain function are sometimes the result of the fall in to sin. For some people all the synapses are not firing. They want them to, but it’s not going to happen.

## **IQ Basics**

By Rodrigo de la Jara from [www.iqcomparisonsite.com](http://www.iqcomparisonsite.com)

What is intelligence? The definition I like is that intelligence is "the ability to learn or understand or to deal with new or trying situations ... also : the skilled use of reason" (4). I have heard some people misuse the word smart to mean knowledgeable. That is like confusing velocity with distance. That one can lead to the other does not mean that they are the same thing, especially in societies where education is not universal.

I.Q. = Intelligence Quotient

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There have been various classification systems for IQ.

Terman's classification was (3):

<b>IQ Range</b>	<b>Classification</b>
140 and over	Genius or near genius
120-140	Very superior intelligence
110-120	Superior intelligence
90-110	Normal or average intelligence
80-90	Dullness
70-80	Borderline deficiency
Below 70	Definite feeble-mindedness

(Terman wrote the Stanford-Binet test (1))

Later, Wechsler thought that it would be much more legitimate to base his classifications on the Probable Error (PE) so his classification was (3):

<b>Classification</b>	<b>IQ Limits</b>	<b>Percent Included</b>
Very Superior	128 and over	2.2
Superior	120-127	6.7
Bright Normal	111-119	16.1
Average	91-110	50
Dull Normal	80-90	16.1
Borderline	66-79	6.7
Defective	65 and below	2.2

Mental deficiency used to be more finely classified using the following technical terms that later began to be abused by the rest of society (2):

<b>IQ Range</b>	<b>Classification</b>
70-80	Borderline deficiency
50-69	Moron
20-49	Imbecile
below 20	Idiot

These are now obsolete. The terms 'mentally retarded' and 'mental retardation' were officially replaced by 'intellectual disabled' and 'intellectual disability' by Rosa's Law in 2010. Before the fifth edition of the Diagnostic and Statistical Manual (DSM 5), which now uses the terms 'intellectual disability (intellectual developmental disorder)', the following was the classification of retardation in the USA (2):

IQ Range	Classification
50-69	Mild
35-49	Moderate
20-34	Severe
below 20	Profound

### References

- (1) Berk, L.E. (1997). Child Development, 4th ed. Toronto: Allyn and Bacon.
- (2) Reber, A.S. (1995). The Penguin Dictionary of Psychology, 2nd ed. Toronto: Penguin Books.
- (3) Wechsler, D. (1944). The Measurement of Adult Intelligence. Baltimore: The Williams & Wilkins Company.
- (4) The Merriam-Webster Dictionary Online: <http://m-w.com/cgi-bin/dictionary?book=Dictionary&va=intelligence>

Most churches don't have people on *every one* of the above levels. No doubt each church has individuals that fall somewhere on *many* of these intelligence levels. The second chart is split like a bell curve. There are numerically even percentages on both sides of the 50% normal. Notice there are as many Dull Normal people as there are Bright Normal. There are as many Borderline as there are Superior. Subsequently, there as many Defective as there are Very Superior.

As ministers, pastors in particular, we all have stories of people we have had to help "think." Whether the inability to think things "all the way through" is the result of the fall, former drug abuse or something else is irrelevant. The reality is there are people that just need help "thinking." If we find ourselves gifted enough to be in the categories of Normal and above, we have a biblical mandate in this verse.

Brethren, my exhortation is that we all seek the help of God to discern the differences between the unruly, the feeble-minded and the weak. Then with that discernment we handle each accordingly *in patience toward all*.