

“Please God, Please People”

Romans 15:1-13

“Each of us should please his neighbour for his good, to build him up.” (15:2)

Paul has been teaching on the need for the ‘strong’ believer to exercise wisdom in those areas where others do not feel the same freedom. Paul was aware of a potential divisiveness in the church so he pushes for unity (15:1-6) so that nothing will hinder the gospel (15:7-13). How does he do this? He encourages the more mature believers to act like their Lord – making sacrifices for the sake of others. Paul did not say one party was right and another was wrong. Nor did he tell them to re-examine their beliefs. Nor did he tell the ‘weak’ to grow up! Instead he directed both to the bigger picture of what all of are to be doing together in Christ; to be considering others ‘better than themselves’ (Phil. 2:4-5).

“Follow Jesus’ Example” (15:1-6)

Who does Paul say should be the example to the other?

15:1 “We who are _____ ought to _____ with the failings of the weak and not to _____ ourselves.”

How is this word ‘bear’ used elsewhere to help us gain a sense of what Paul means?

Gal. 6:2 “Carry (bear) each other’s _____ and in this way you will fulfil the law of _____.”

Gal. 6:17 “Finally let no one cause me trouble for I bear on my body the _____ of Jesus.”

Luke 14:27 “And anyone who does not carry (bear) his _____ cannot be My disciple.”

What particular burden did Paul mean?

Rom. 14:3 “The one who eats everything must not look _____ on the one who does not, and the one who does not eat everything must not _____ on the one who does for God has _____ him.”

Paul commands the stronger believers (including himself) while free to please themselves in these ‘gray’ areas should resist doing so. Why?

15:2 “Each of us should please his _____ for his _____ to _____ him up.”

Paul knows being selfish never builds anyone up! Think of others first. Whose example does he give for us to follow?

15:3 “For even _____ did not please Himself but as it is written, ‘The _____ of those who insult _____ have fallen on me.’ “

Paul quotes David in Psalm 69:9. Read vv.8-9. David is ‘bearing’ insults people have for God. Why?

Ps. 69:9 “For zeal for _____ house consumes me . . . “

David’s love for God resulted in God being ridiculed by others. Jesus’ zeal for God led to suffering and crucifixion and people questioning God. Paul says to the believers in Rome your zeal for God results in others insulting God! Put up with it because so did _____.

By quoting Scripture and extolling the example of Jesus Paul reminds us we are not alone in being 'insulted' because of our faith. We should continually go to the Scriptures because why?

15:4 "For _____ that was written in the past was written to _____ us, so that through _____ and the _____ of the Scriptures we might have _____."

The Scriptures give us endurance and encouragement because whose words are they?

15:5 "May the ____ who gives endurance and encouragement give you a spirit of _____ among yourselves as you follow Christ Jesus

15:6 so that with one _____ and one _____ you may _____ the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ."

Paul is concerned about unity in the church. Why was their disunity? (14:13)

What did Paul see as the solution? (15:1)

What' results when we live in unity in spite of our differences? (15:6)

"Accept One Another to Glorify God" (15:7-13)

Paul moves away from the divisive issue to the unity issue: namely glorify God. How does Paul bring these disagreeing believers together?

15:7 "Accept one _____ then just as _____ accepted you, in order to bring _____ to God."

Believers are to accept one another and serve one another and make sacrifices for one another – just as Christ did. Why did Jesus do it?

15:8 "For I tell you that Christ has become a servant of the ____ On behalf of God's _____, to confirm the promises made to the patriarchs

15:9 "so that the Gentiles may _____ God for His _____ . . ."

So here's Paul's argument: accept one another (Jew and Gentile) because God accepted you Jews in spite of your rebellion, and God accepted you Gentiles even though He didn't make a covenant with you! And yet, Paul quotes 3 Old Testament passages to show God had always planned for both to come together for one purpose: glorify Him

Note all the Old Testament quotes all about glorifying God!

15:9 "as it is w _____

15:10 "A _____ it says . . .

15:11 "And a _____ . . .

15:12 "And a _____ Isaiah says . . .

Note also the progression of the point of both Jew and Gentile glorifying God.

15:9 “Therefore, I [David, a J_____] will praise You among the G_____” (2 Sam. 22:50)

15:10 “Rejoice O G_____ with His people [J_____] . . .” (Deut. 32:43)

15:11 “Praise the Lord you G_____ and sing praises to Him all you _____ . . .”
(Ps. 117:1)

15:12 “The Root of _____ [Messiah, born of a J_____] will spring up, one who will arise to rule over the _____; the G_____ will hope in Him.” (Is. 11:10)

Paul leaves a benediction and prayer for them to enjoy God’s joy and peace – how?

15:13 “May the God of _____ fill you with all joy and peace as you _____ in Him, so that you may _____ with hope by the _____ of the Holy Spirit.”

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