

Romans 15:17-33 Reflection & Group Questions

LEADERS: Consider distributing this sheet to everyone in your group as they arrive. Encourage them to think of their answers to the Personal Reflection Questions before the main discussion starts.

Personal Reflection and Application:

Reread the passage above and answer the following questions:

1. How has Paul's example encouraged and challenged you in your own gospel witness?
 2. How has his example encouraged and challenged you in your own gospel giving?
 3. Whose struggle could you enter into by praying for them now, and then continuing to do so daily?
 4. How committed are you to praying for and pursuing unity among our church membership?
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Group Discussion Guide (*Prayer Guide on back*):

LEADERS: Reread the passage above and select which items below to discuss.

1. **Opening Question:** *In this passage Paul discusses his travel plans. What is one place you would like to visit someday?*
2. *In verse 18, Jesus used both Paul's words and deeds to bring the gentiles to [faith and] obedience. Why are both words and deeds necessary?*
3. *Various people tend to prefer either serving God with their words, while other prefer to serve with good deeds. Which do you prefer?*
4. *In verses 25-28 Paul explains his planned detour to Jerusalem to deliver financial assistance to the poor believers in Jerusalem. He says that not only do the gentile believers have a duty to assist their Jewish fellow believers (v.27), but he mentioned two times that giving this gift brought them joy ("pleased" v.26-27). List some ways people give to others today that bring them joy. Why is giving sometimes not a joy?*
5. *In verses 31 Paul asks for prayer that the believers in Jerusalem will find the gift acceptable; implying that they may not find the gift acceptable. Their possible objection to the gift may have based on religious and ethnic grounds. What are some reasons in our time that people may turn down help that is offered to them?*
6. *Optional question: In what ways is the gospel an offer of help?*
7. *Look through the personal questions above, share one of your answers with us.*
8. *How can our group improve our efforts to pray for the missionaries we support?*