

"WITH ONE VOICE"
ONE: CHRIST. CHARIS. CHURCH & CHARGE
FOREVER CHANGED
faith. forgiveness. freedom. future.
Part 34 / Romans 15:1-13 / Dr. Matt Jones

I. Arguments: Romans' Context (Romans 1-14)

A. Gracious Promises

B. Gentile Pagans

C. God's People

II. Acceptance: Rough Conflict (Romans 15:1-13)

A. Bearing Weakness (15:1-7)

B. Bringing Worship (15:8-12)

C. Believing Works (15:13)

III. Application: Real Church

A. The Substitute

B. The Savior

C. The Servant

COMMUNITY GROUP QUESTIONS

Reflective Questions for You and Your Small Group

1. We studied the beginning of the 15th chapter of Romans this Sunday. The opening of Romans 15 forms a summarizing conclusion and application to what Paul has said in the 14th chapter. With this in mind, go back and read Romans 14:1 thru 15:13 and then discuss how these chapters and verses fit together. What common themes are woven through this section? What was the gist of the Apostle Paul's heart for the church that he is communicating here in this section?
2. In Romans 15, Paul calls believers to accepting others. Who (i.e. what sort of person) do you find most difficult to accept and why is that (i.e. what does that tell you about yourself and needs in your life to grow in the grace of God)?
3. Cultural and ethnic divides in the Roman world had found its way into the church, bringing conflict and disunity to congregations. While the Apostle Paul's context was different from ours, we too have issues from the outside world that find a way into the church. Discuss the divides of our culture that you see coming into the church and creating disunity among believers and unsubmissiveness toward faithful biblical leaders in the church. In what you see concerning this, who are the strong and who are the weak? How can we labor and pray to bring them both together and foster unity, love and compassion in the church?
4. In Romans 15:5, we read about God giving perseverance and encouragement to believers. Discuss this inner work of God in your life. Recently, how is the Lord working in you to encourage you and strengthen you in persevering through hard times in the world, temptation, sin, work, discouragement, relational stress, etc. Share about what God is doing in you to strengthen/sanctify you in His grace.
5. In Romans 15:6, we see that the inner work of God bringing perseverance and encouragement bears the fruit of unity in the church ("...with one accord you may with one voice...") and also the outcome of worship ("...one voice glorify the God and Father of our Lord..."). Can you think of a time when God worked through relational strain and stress in your life to reconcile you to a fellow believer(s) and join your voices together in praise? If so, share about this encouraging work of God in bringing us together, growing us in love and deepening our worship.
6. In Romans 15:4, Paul talks about how the Hebrew Bible "was written for our instruction." Throughout Romans, we see Paul relying on its authority and quoting it to his readers to point them to God. That said, unfortunately many Christians today do not know their Old Testament scriptures as well as they know the New Testament. With this in mind, share about key texts from the Hebrew Scripture that feed your soul and inform your faith in God. Discuss the importance of knowing the Old Testament to understanding the New Testament. Generally speaking, share about how you practically have been disciplined and are currently growing in devotion to reading, learning and obeying the Bible.
7. In Romans 15:8-12, Paul rejoices in Christ's work of saving the nations. With this in mind, take some time together to pray for the unreached in the nations. Pray for the Lord to raise up missionaries who will go and bring the gospel.