

**Riverview Baptist Church Wednesday Night Class:
A Study in the Book of Romans – Lesson 15**

E. In Relation to Other Believers, 14:1–15:13

1. Do not judge one another, 14:1–12

2. Do not hinder one another, 14:13–23

3. Do imitate Christ, 15:1–13

Paul concludes his section on the practical application of our righteousness in the first thirteen verses of chapter 15. The fact that we are righteous in Christ is the guiding force of our lives.

Remember! Our righteousness does not come from anything we have done ourselves. The moment we accepted Jesus Christ as Savior, God imparts the righteousness of Christ to us! Therefore, we are righteous indeed!

In this section (15:1-13), Paul encourages his readers to _____ Jesus Christ in our relationships to other believers. Take note of what Paul says in verse 1.

“Now we who are strong ought to bear the weaknesses of those without strength...” Paul includes himself in those that are _____. He also recognizes those who are not as spiritually _____. This involves some level of _____.

He does not say that he considers himself to be _____. In fact, Paul is encouraging the opposite attitude. Christians are to look toward the needs of others. This is seen in the initial phrase “...and not *just* please ourselves.”

The verb “to please” comes from the Greek word ἀρέσκω (areskō). It means “to cause someone to be pleased with someone or something.” “In a number of languages the equivalent of ‘to cause someone to be pleased with something’ is expressed as ‘to cause someone to be happy about’ or ‘to cause someone to feel good about.’”¹

Paul and other New Testament writers encourage believers throughout to have a proper attitude about our salvation and the new life that we have. However, no believer is to be _____. We should concentrate on ourselves and our spiritual growth, but not to the exclusion of others.

So, in light of these truths, what are the spiritually strong supposed to help the spiritually weak to understand? With what are they to be pleased? What are they to be happy about?

Paul tells us the answer in verse 2. Spiritually mature Christians should do what we can to help other Christians to live life _____ and to be built up into the _____ of Christ. This is after all the encouragement in Romans 8:29.

Paul uses Jesus as an example in verse 3. Jesus, God Himself, came to earth to live out a life of _____ and _____. The Apostle John wrote that Jesus came to do the will of God the Father and to please Him (John 4:34; 5:30; 8:29).

Paul quoted from one of the Messianic Psalms, 69:9, which stated that the Messiah would be persecuted for His associate with the Father. He was!

¹ Johannes P. Louw and Eugene Albert Nida, Greek-English Lexicon of the New Testament: Based on Semantic Domains (New York: United Bible Societies, 1996), 299.

Not only was Christ an example, but Paul also references that the _____ are also useful to instruct us in how to live before others. The Bible is our _____ book for Christian living!

What does the Bible give the believer, if one chooses to _____ it and _____ it? Perseverance (the ability to stand up under a weight or trial) and encouragement (Pastor Ward's though - the knowledge of knowing someone is supporting you). See Romans 5:3-5.

What is one of the goals, the desired outcome of having perseverance and encouragement? Hope! To have a steadfast and strong view of the future! To have a confidence about what the future holds for the believer!

Paul then expresses his heart for his readers. Verses 5-6 is actually a written _____ that comes from the heart of the Apostle. He recognizes that perseverance and encouragement ultimately come from the Lord. Although, God also uses His people to work.

Paul prays that God will also give to believers a unity of _____, the type of mind and attitude that Jesus Christ showed the world. The idea is that believers would all be more _____.

It is from this truth that individual Christians and churches can share the same "voice" – literally "the same mouth" about the Lord! We should all be saying the same things about God!

It is because of this (Christlikeness, unity, humility, concern for other believers) that Paul concludes that we should continue to _____ one another (14:1). The spiritually strong should accept those who are spiritually weak. We should be in good _____ one with another!

In a church that was primarily made up of _____, there must have been an issue with Jewish believers. There must have been some sort of contention between Gentile believers and Jewish believers.

In verse 8-12, Paul clearly states that Christ came to minister to and die for both Jews and Gentiles! Much of the earthly ministry of Jesus was to fulfill the prophecies of the Old Testament in relation to _____. However, His life was also to show _____ to the Gentiles.

Paul references a number of Old Testament quotes to show that the Messiah would be a blessing to both Jew and Gentile. Ryrie writes this, “Jesus ministered to His fellow-Jews to confirm the promises made to Israel (9:4) and to Gentiles who, though without covenants, received the mercy of God.”²

Paul again gives a written prayer in 14:13. Here Paul is reaching out to the God of _____ on behalf of his readers! Paul references the previous quotes and the Scriptures in general (13:4) as being that which God uses to give his readers hope!

Paul asks the Lord to fill believers with _____ and _____ in believing, so that believers will abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.

² Charles Caldwell Ryrie, Ryrie Study Bible: New American Standard Bible, 1995 Update, Expanded ed. (Chicago: Moody Press, 1995), 1812.