

Romans 15:1-13

Romans **“the mystery”** **of the Body of Christ**

Freed by Grace

Bound by Love

Differing Cultures

Differing Convictions

Differing Gifts

Chapters 1-11

Chapters 12-16

“Christianity that does not start with the individual, does not start.”

“Christianity that ends with the individual, ends.”

Romans 15:1-13

“¹ Now we who are strong ought to bear the weaknesses of those without strength and not {just} please ourselves. ² Let each of us please his neighbor for his good, to his edification. ³ For even Christ did not please Himself; but as it is written, “*The reproaches of those who reproached Thee fell upon Me.*” ⁴ For whatever was written in earlier times was written for our instruction, that through perseverance and the encouragement of the Scriptures we might have hope. ⁵ Now may the God who gives perseverance and encouragement grant you to be of the same mind with one another according to Christ Jesus; ⁶ that with one accord you may with one voice glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ.”

“⁷ Wherefore, accept one another, just as Christ also accepted us to the glory of God. ⁸ For I say that Christ has become a servant to the circumcision on behalf of the truth of God to confirm the promises {given} to the fathers, ⁹ and for the Gentiles to glorify God for His mercy; as it is written, “*Therefore I will give praise to Thee among the Gentiles, And I will sing to Thy name*” ¹⁰ And again he says, “*Rejoice, O Gentiles, with His people.*” ¹¹ And again, “*Praise the Lord all you Gentiles, And let all the peoples praise Him.*” ¹² And again Isaiah says, “*There shall come the root of Jesse, And He who arises to rule over the Gentiles, In Him shall the Gentiles hope.*” ¹³ Now may the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.”

Romans 15:1-13 **Keeping Hope alive**

Paul’s vision of the
“Body of Christ”

Jew / Gentile
Slave / Free
Male / Female
Various gifts
Strong / weak

We can become discouraged by our resistance to walking in the Spirit of sacrificial love.

We need to keep hope alive.

Principle #1 **Deference to others keeps hope alive.**

“¹ Now we who are strong ought to bear the weaknesses of those without strength and not {just} please ourselves. ² Let each of us **please** (be acceptable to) his neighbor for his good, to his edification.”

The strong should take the initiative in serving the weak.

What is “pleasing” is qualified by “his good” & “edification.”

Principle #2 **Love calls for perseverance and encouragement.**

“³ For even **Christ** did not please Himself; but as it is written, “*The reproaches of those who reproached Thee fell upon Me.*” ⁴ For whatever was written in earlier times was written for our instruction, that through perseverance and the encouragement of the Scriptures we might have hope.”

✓ **Christ was not ashamed to bear our reproachable condition.**

“⁵ Now may the God who gives perseverance and encouragement grant you to be of the same mind with one another according to Christ Jesus; ⁶ that with one accord you may with one voice glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ. ⁷ Wherefore, accept one another, just as Christ also accepted us to the glory of God.”

✓ Christ is an example in accepting us as we are.

“the God who gives”

Prayer

Hope

“perseverance”

“encouragement”

Discipline

Community

Principle #3

“Being of the same mind” is more about loving than “being right.”

It is not uniformity of conviction on every issue **but** walking in LOVE

through natural selection, external manipulation, or forced conformity

while respecting the boundaries of orthodox faith.

Jesus is a servant to Jews

“⁸ For I say that Christ has become a servant to the circumcision on behalf of the truth of God to confirm the promises {given} to the fathers.”

Jesus is a servant to Gentiles

“⁹ and for the Gentiles to glorify God for His mercy; as it is written, “*Therefore I will give praise to Thee among the Gentiles, And I will sing to Thy name*” ¹⁰ And again he says, “*Rejoice, O Gentiles, with His people.*” ¹¹ And again, “*Praise the Lord all you Gentiles, And let all the peoples praise Him.*” ¹² And again Isaiah says, “*There shall come the root of Jesse, and He who arises to rule over the Gentiles, In Him shall the Gentiles hope.*”

“¹³ Now may the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing,

that you may **abound in hope** by the power of the Holy Spirit.”

Whatever level your faith, may it bring joy and peace **and create an environment of hope for**

authentic CommUnity.

“by the power of the Holy Spirit.”

Build the Body of Christ - Acts 2

Enrich -
the culture

Exalt -
Christ as Creator, Redeemer, Lord

Embrace -
our heritage

Jesus

Express -
kingdom values

Evangelize -
the world

Edify -
Christ's church

Example
Worship music - WWJD

1. Agree that while important this is not fundamental therefore be open to deference.
2. Some must defer to others if there is going to be unity. Separation is the alternative.
3. The ones who defer are the more enlightened and stronger in faith.
4. Expressions of love and respect will encourage deference.
5. Where possible seek compromises.
6. Accommodate the larger goal of the worship meetings.
7. Trust the elder's judgment on difficult calls.

Worship music - Popular solutions.

1. Those in power get their way.
2. Majority rule.
3. Lowest common denominator.
4. Separate services.
5. Separate congregations.