

“With One Mind and one Mouth, Glorify God” Romans 15:1-13

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Teaching Aim: To understand, as Christians, we are to look out for the physical and spiritual wellbeing of other people as a reflection of our love for Christ. To realize, when the body of Christ is unified with one mind and one mouth, we individually and corporately glorify God. To recognize the mystery of God has been revealed and is now being fulfilled before our very eyes as Jewish and Gentile believers alike are uniting into one body, we call this body the Church.

DIGGING DEEPER INTO GOD’S WORD (*BIBLE STUDY*)

Part I: Let each of us look out for the welfare of others rather than just pleasing ourselves. (Rom. 15:1-3)

1. According to **verse 1**, does Paul classify himself as being “*weak*” or “*strong*” in the Christian faith? How do the terms strong and weak in this verse relate to the topic of “*Christian liberty*?” In the context, to have a “*scruple*” means to object to certain activities that another Christian feels he or she the right to practice. What are some areas of Christian liberty that some Christians might practice today causing other Christians to stumble in their walk? How should the strong Christian who feels the freedom to participate in one of these activities respond to the brother or sister in the Lord who has scruples about the activity (**vs. 1**)? (See **Rom. 14:21; 1 Cor. 8:9**)
2. What did Paul mean when he instructed the Corinthians to look out for their neighbor’s “*good*” (**vs. 2**)? Who is our neighbor today? (See **Lev. 19:18; Matt. 22:37-40; Luke 10:25-37**) How would you define the word “*edification*?” (See Dictionary) What are some ways that we can build other Christians up today? Who are you ministering to now?
3. Who did Paul use as the ultimate example of not pleasing Himself in **verse 3**? If Christ didn’t come to please Himself, who did He come to please? (See **John 5:30; 8:28-29**) What does the word “*reproach*” mean? How does this relate to you? How do you respond when you are insulted? How did Jesus respond to the vicious attacks against Him, both verbally and physically? (See **Isa. 53:7; Mark 15:3-5; 1 Pet. 2:21-24**) What can we learn from the example of Jesus when it comes to dealing with difficult people who make our lives miserable?

Part II: As Christians we should be glorifying God with one mind and one mouth. (Rom. 15:4-6)

1. Sir Walter Scott said, *"He who forgets his own history is condemned to repeat it."* According to **verse 4**, what was a major reason that the Old Testament was written? What are some of the truths in the Old Testament that bless you? How do these truths give you *"hope?"* Is biblical hope different from our modern concept of hope? If so, in what way?
2. What title did Paul use for God in **verse 5**? Why do you think this title was used when speaking of Christians dealing with the issue of Christian liberty? What did Paul encourage all Christians to be in **verse 5**? Does unity mean that we are to compromise the essentials of our faith? What does *"unity in Christ"* mean and why is it so important to the Christian faith? Why is unity important to world evangelism? (See **John 17:20-23**)
3. What happens when the body of Christ is of *"one mind"* and *"one mouth"* (**vs. 6**)? What does the word *"glorify"* mean? (See Dictionary) Why is it important that believers glorify God?

Part III: As Christ received us, we should also receive others. (Rom. 15:7-13)

1. In **verse 7** Paul concludes his line of thought that began in **Romans 14:1**. Who did Paul use in **verse 7** as the ultimate example of someone willing to receive others to Himself, forgiving what they have done against Him the past? (See **Eph. 4:32**) If Jesus has willingly forgiven us, shouldn't we be willing to forgive others (**vs. 7**)? What can we learn about the state of human beings from the following Bible verses: **Rom. 3:23; 5:8-9; 1 Cor. 15:3-4**. According to **verse 7**, who will receive the glory if we receive people who are weak.

2. According to **verses 8 and 9**, why did Jesus come to earth in the role of a servant? Is this an example that Christians should follow today? The world is quick to give status to the rich and powerful, but who does God give status to? (See **Mark 10:44-45**) Who is the ultimate example of a humble servant? What are some ways that you are humbly serving God today? Have you discovered your spiritual gifts yet? (See **Rom. 12:4-8; 1 Cor, 12:4-11, 27-31; Eph. 4:11-13**) What are they? Which areas of service in ministry do you find the most satisfaction in? Why?

3. What group of people do we find being referred to in **verse 8** as "*the circumcision?*" Circumcision points to God's special covenant with Abraham and the nation of Israel (**vs. 8**). (See **Gen. 17:10-14**) How was the coming of Christ at His first advent a confirmation of the promises God made to the patriarchs Abraham, Isaac and Jacob? (See **Gen. 12:1-3; 22:15-18; 26:3-5; 28:13-14**) What special role was given to the nation of Israel in the Old Testament? (See **Exod. 19:5-6**) Did they fulfill this role? What group of people were some of the same promises passed on to during the time of the Jews disobedience? (See **1 Pet. 2:9-10; Rev. 1:5-6**) How do you see yourself fulfilling your role as a priest of God today?

4. What is the definition of the word "*mercy*" (**vs. 9**)? (See Dictionary) There are only two kinds of people in the world, Jews and Gentiles. Gentiles include all people groups who are not Jews. According to **verses 7 & 8**, what leads the Gentiles to glorify God? How do you feel in your heart when you think of the mercy of God given to you in Christ Jesus? Why? In **verse 9** Paul quotes loosely from **2 Sam. 22:50** and almost word for word from **Psa. 18:49**. Who was the writer in both cases?

5. In **verse 10** Paul quotes from **Deut. 32:43**. According to Moses, how should believing Jews and believing Gentiles respond to the mercy they have received from God?

6. In **verse 11**, Paul once again quotes from the Psalms. This verse is especially significant since it is not only the shortest chapter in the Bible, but also the middle chapter of the entire Bible. According to **Psa. 117:1-2**, what should be the cause of Gentiles praising God?

7. Paul quoted from the prophet Isaiah in **verse 12**. According to this verse, who will the masses of Gentiles put their hope in? In what way is Jesus "*a root of Jesse?*" (See **Isa. 11:1-2, 10; Jer. 23:5-6; Matt. 1:6; 21:9; Rev. 5:5**) What hope do believers in Jesus Christ have (both Jews and Gentiles)? (See **John 3:16-17, 36; 1 John 5:11-13**) According to **verse 12**, who will one day reign over the entire world? What do theologians call this future age? Note: In **verses 9-12** Paul uses all three major divisions of the Old Testament (The Law; the Prophets; & the Writings) as well as three of the greatest OT prophets (Moses; David; & Isaiah) to make his point that the gospel would go to Jews and Gentiles alike. Should the Jews have realized this?
8. What title did Paul use for God in **verse 13**? What should this title bring to all Christians, even during the difficult of times in life? What characteristics will be in the hearts of believers who trust God according to **verse 13**? Where else do we see these characteristics being listed together in the Bible? (See **Gal. 5:22-23**) According to **verse 13**, where do Christians find the power to live the Spirit filled life? Are you living the Spirit filled life today? (See **Gal. 5:16**)?
9. On a scale of 1 to 10, how would you rate your spiritual walk with Christ? How serious are you in drawing near to God? (See **Jam. 4:8**) What changes are you willing to make in your life to start living the Spirit filled life?

MINER'S CORNER ~ *Manna to live by!*

- Followers of Jesus are to bear the weaknesses of other Christians.
- At times, Christians should think of the welfare of other believers even before they think of their own selves.
- In love, we are to build one another up in the Christian faith.
- The Old Testament lays the foundation for our knowledge of Jesus that is expanded on in the New Testament.
- We are to forgive others, even as Jesus has forgiven us.
- Believing Jews and believing Gentiles are joint heirs in Jesus and grateful recipients of salvation that comes by grace through faith in Christ alone.
- Unlike the world's hope, biblical hope is a hope that cannot be taken away, it is a sure thing.