

Salt Church

Romans 15:1-13

“One Voice”

May 31, 2026

The Greatest Book Ever Written

David and Cindy (June 6-14) 6 days

RECAP:

Romans 14:23

²³ But if you have doubts about whether or not you should eat something, you are sinning if you go ahead and do it.

- We learned
 - You must be fully convinced that whatever you are doing is not a sin or sinful in any way.

For you are not following your convictions.

- We learned
 - God has given us the gift of convictions,
 - Listen to that voice of conviction, it may be the Holy Spirit.
 - The only way to know for sure is to get into the word of God.
 - And if it is a debatable thing use what God has already given you.
 - If your conscience is clear and it won't hurt another believer, then go ahead with the blessing of God
 - But if not, walk away to the glory of God.

If you do anything you believe is not right, you are sinning.

- Plan and simple...

In the end we learned that “Harmony within the Church” was the goal that the Lord has given us.

- This harmony can only be accomplished through the power of the Holy Spirit
 - Who often speaks to us through our conscience
 - We also agreed that the only way to know for sure whether what we hear is from the Lord is to become a student of God’s Word.
 - When we submit to God’s Word the process of Godly maturity begins.
 - In maturity we learn how to:
 - Love, endure, help, and experience union with each other and Jesus Christ.

Chapter 15 is very much like chapter 14 in that it is very pragmatic.

- Paul, through the power of the Holy Spirit continues with the practical instruction for the church as it learns to mature in harmony and with one voice.

Romans 15

15 We who are strong must be considerate of those who are sensitive about things like this. We must not just please ourselves.

- We must be considerate as it relates to “debatable things.”

- Our goal must be:
 - The glory of Gods great name through
 - Love
 - Patience (Endurance)
 - Unity (Union in Christ and the body of believers)
 - Maturity (Continued Growth)
 - This goal takes time!
 - And it is never fully realized if it is done properly. (Why?)
 - Because the church should never stop growing
 - We should always have a steady stream of new believers
 - We should always “making disciples, baptizing them in the name of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.”

²We should help others do what is right and build them up in the Lord.

- This is an important verse.
- The point of verse two is that we don't leave the immature brother in his immaturity.
 - We disciple him
 - Help him see the truth
 - Encourage him by patiently loving him in the truth.
 - While never compromising the truth.

3 For even Christ didn't live to please himself. As the Scriptures say, "The insults of those who insult you, O God, have fallen on me."

- What an odd thing to say.
 - Verse 1 says that the strong should help the weak
 - Verse 2 says we should do what is right and build the weaker brother up
 - Verse 3 says Christ didn't live to please Himself and as a result He was insulted.
 - Think about that statement.
 - We love the weaker brother
 - We build them up in the truth
 - Then they insult us?
 - What does this teach us?
 - **Not everyone wants the truth**
 - **Not everyone wants peace and unity**
 - **Some prefer to hold onto religion and tradition rather than understanding the truth.**

The command on our life is to be like Jesus.

- **Teach truth with love, patience, and kindness but understand that if Jesus did not have a 100% success rate neither shall we.**
- And don't be surprised when you are insulted for teaching the truth.

4 Such things were written in the Scriptures long ago to teach us.

- The Bible is filled with men and women who taught and held onto the truth and were mistreated or even killed for their testimonies.
- Many prophets were killed because they spoke the truth.
- Almost all of our New Testament heroes were murdered for their faith:
 - Jesus was crucified
 - John the Baptist was beheaded
 - James was thrown from the top of the temple and then stoned to death
 - Paul was beheaded
 - Stephen was stoned to death
 - Peter watched his wife be crucified to death
 - Later he was crucified upside down on a cross
 - Some were speared to death
 - Cut with knives until they bled to death
 - The Foxes book of martyrs contains stories of Christians that were
 - Burned at the stake just for translating the Bible into English
 - It hasn't stopped as Christians are killed in tortured in pagan countries as they see Christ as a threat to their way of life.

What does that teach us?

4 Such things were written in the Scriptures long ago to teach us. And the Scriptures give us hope and encouragement as we wait patiently for God's promises to be fulfilled.

- What a beautiful verse.
- In the Greek it reminds us that “through endurance” we will find encouragement.
 - This is why Satan does not want you to read God’s Word.
 - God’s Word is a weapon that is guaranteed to defeat our enemy.
 - In God’s Word we find the strength and encouragement when we are weak and discouraged.
 - We see that “insults from non-believers and immature believers” **are the mark of a truth disciple of Christ.**

Here is what I know:

- If you stand for the truth
- If you teach the truth
- If you go to a brother or sister who is living in active willful disobedience to God’s Word and they refuse to repent, **you will be insulted.**
 - You will be accused
 - And this makes you like Jesus
 - Like Paul
 - Like John
 - Like Peter
 - Like James

But fear and discouragement are not where we live!

- **NO!**
 - We live in the promises of God our Father

- We live in a future home a place called Heaven
- We live on the promises of God's Word
 - **Yes, Yes, and AMEN that is where we live!**
 - For we know that this life is but a vapor
 - A temporary stop before we are received by our King to live with Him in perfect union forever and ever.
 - That's why we expect the enemies attack
 - That is why we put on the full armor of God.
 - That is why we gladly pull out the Sword of God's Word and go to battle.

We continue:

5 May God, who gives this patience and encouragement, help you live in complete harmony with each other, as is fitting for followers of Christ Jesus.

- I love the way the Holy Spirit says that!
 - In the Greek it says it like this, *“May the God of patience and endurance give you all the same mind of Jesus Christ”*
- **Do you hear what He is saying?**
 - He doesn't promise to take us out of the battle but rather His plan is to lead us into the battle as a single-minded unit so that He can lead us into victory.
 - WHY?
 - Because, running from the enemy is not the plan.
 - Victory over the enemy and sin is the where freedom and God's glory are found!

- And you don't find those things when you are constantly retreating!
 - Why?
 - Because they are not behind you!
 - They are in front of you!

6 Then all of you can join together with one voice, giving praise and glory to God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ.

- Look what happens when we are united in harmony with our King.
 - With one voice we give glory to God our Father
 - With one voice we give glory to our Lord Jesus Christ!
 - This is our goal
 - This is our mission as a church
 - This, if accomplished, becomes a powerful force against the darkness.

7 Therefore, accept each other just as Christ has accepted you so that God will be given glory.

- Verse 7 reminds us where it all starts:
 - In the Greek it is *“receive one another as Christ has received you.”*
 - Acceptance is understanding that everyone is at a different level of maturity in Christ.
 - ***Be patient as you help each other grow.***
 - “As iron sharpens iron” meaning ***there will be some sparks*** but that is to be expected but **don't allow differences in debatable things separate you.**
 - If we can do this, we will bring glory to God.

8 Remember that Christ came as a servant to the Jews to show that God is true to the promises he made to their ancestors.

- **Two observations here:**

- “Christ came as a servant”
 - We are “little Christ” meaning we should be like Him and be ready to serve in love.
- This servant attitude is part of the promises or prophecy given to Gods people so long ago.
 - Meaning we can look back to the promises made so long ago for encouragement because we know that God always keeps His word.

What does that look like Pastor?

- In the Old Testament God promised the coming Messiah
- He told them hundreds of years prior to the coming of Jesus how He would come.
 - Virgin birth
 - From Bethlehem
 - From the family of King David
 - Preceded by a great prophet that would be like Elijah
 - He would be rejected by Gods people
 - He would be crucified (Keep in mind this was before crucifixion was invented)
 - Psalms 22 is a very detailed chapter that chronicles every detail of that event.
 - Psalms 23 is His death

- Psalms 24 is His resurrection and return to earth

Now, we know that those things have happened because of the historical account.

- And just good ole common sense (meaning)
 - Just look around you
 - The whole earth reset its calendar 2026 years ago? (why?)
 - The Bible is by far the best-selling book in the entire world
 - There is more historical documentation to prove that Jesus was a real person who lived when the Bible says He did than most of the documentation that says other historical figures lived.
 - How about all of the archeological proof?
 - The ruins of Sodom and Gomorrah
 - Jericho
 - King Solomons Temple
 - Just to name a few.

Okay Pastor, but how does that bring encouragement?

- It brings encouragement by proving to us that Gods Word can be trusted.
 - So, when God says:
 - There will be a (sudden removal) or rapture of the Church we can trust that.

- There will be:
 - 7 years of tribulation in which all that man worships outside of God will be removed.
 - It will be very difficult but will result in the greatest evangelistic moment in history.
- It will be followed by the return of Christ to earth in which He will set up His earthly reign that will last 1,000 years.
 - A wonderful period of time in which the earth and all of nature will return to its pre-flood stage.
 - Meaning:
 - No predators
 - Clean water and air
 - Almost no sickness
 - People live to be hundreds of years old
 - Crops produce an abundance of food
 - There will be no dictators or sinful governments
 - Global worship of Jesus Christ
 - Global blessing of God in all areas of life.

All of that is wonderful Pastor but what about right now?

- This is the best part!!!!
 - The promise for now is the Gospel (Good News) of Jesus Christ.

John 3:16-18

¹⁶ For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life. ¹⁷ For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through him. ¹⁸ Whoever believes in him is not condemned, but whoever does not believe stands condemned already because they have not believed in the name of God's one and only Son.

- You don't have to wait to be blessed by the gospel for the gospel is for right now.
- And should you submit to the Lordship of Jesus Christ a wonderful thing happens when you cry out upon the name of Jesus Christ.

2 Corinthians 5:17

¹⁷ Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new.

So, let me ask you a question:

- Don't you want to be made new?
- Don't you want a second chance at life?
 - Today is the day of salvation.
 - Cry out to Jesus
 - Ask Him to forgive you
 - Submit to Him as your only reason for living
 - Tell someone that you prayed that prayer
 - Get you a Bible so that you can be encouraged by what has already happened
 - Encouraged by what is happening

- Encouraged by what is going to happen

⁸ Remember that Christ came as a servant to the Jews to show that God is true to the promises he made to their ancestors.

⁹ He also came so that the Gentiles might give glory to God for his mercies to them.

- Jesus did not come to just save the Jews, He came into the world to save everyone who would come!
- And The Holy Spirit reminds us that we too have a responsibility (like the Jews) to give glory to God for His mercies as well.

That is what the psalmist meant when he wrote:

**“For this, I will praise you among the Gentiles;
I will sing praises to your name.”**

**¹⁰ And in another place it is written,
“Rejoice with his people,
you Gentiles.”**

**¹¹ And yet again,
“Praise the Lord, all you Gentiles.**

Praise him, all you people of the earth.”

¹² And in another place Isaiah said,

**“The heir to David’s throne will come,
and he will rule over the Gentiles.
They will place their hope on him.”**

- What’s the point?
 - The point is that **we all were part of His plan from the beginning.**
 - Like the Jews, those of us who have heard His voice as He called us to be His own have received the encouragement of His plan and we embrace the goodness and encouragement of His word.

We close out today’s teaching with verse 13

¹³ I pray that God, the source of hope, will fill you completely with joy and peace because you trust in him. Then you will overflow with confident hope through the power of the Holy Spirit.

- Amen!!!!