



HOW **NOT** TO SABOTAGE YOUR CHURCH

A STUDY OF ROMANS 14-15



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SERMON NOTES**
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HOW NOT TO SABOTAGE YOUR CHURCH

A STUDY OF ROMANS 14-15



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Take a Note

PART 1: "DON'T SWEAT THE SMALL STUFF"

Social polarization is not unique to our era. It was also a problem among believers in Rome in the 1st century.

MESSIANIC JEWS



GENTILE CHRISTIANS



A black and white photograph of a church steeple with a weather vane on top, set against a light sky. The steeple is on the left side of the image, partially overlapping the text area.

ROMANS 14:3

ESV - English Standard Version

“Let not the one who eats despise the one who abstains, and let not the one who abstains pass judgment on the one who eats, for God has welcomed him.”

**HOW NOT TO
SABOTAGE
YOUR CHURCH**

THE CHURCH



A black and white photograph of a church steeple and a white door. The steeple is on the left, and the door is in the foreground. The image is partially obscured by a white geometric shape.

ROMANS 15:1

ESV - English Standard Version

“We who are strong have an obligation to bear with the failings of the weak, and not to please ourselves.”

HOW **NOT** TO
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ROMANS 15:7-13

ESV - English Standard Version

“Therefore welcome one another as Christ has welcomed you, for the glory of God. For I tell you that Christ became a servant to the circumcised to show God’s truthfulness, in order to confirm the promises given to the patriarchs, and in order that the Gentiles might glorify God for his mercy.”

HOW NOT TO
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YOUR CHURCH



ROMANS 15:7-13

ESV - English Standard Version

“As it is written, “Therefore I will praise you among the Gentiles, and sing to your name.” And again it is said, “Rejoice, O Gentiles, with his people.” And again, “Praise the Lord, all you Gentiles, and let all the peoples extol him.”

**HOW NOT TO
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YOUR CHURCH**



ROMANS 15:7-13

ESV - English Standard Version

“And again Isaiah says, “The root of Jesse will come, even he who arises to rule the Gentiles; in him will the Gentiles hope.”
May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that by the power of the Holy Spirit you may abound in hope.”

**HOW NOT TO
SABOTAGE
YOUR CHURCH**

A black and white photograph of a church steeple with a weather vane on top, set against a cloudy sky. The steeple is dark and has a pointed top. The weather vane is a small flag on a pole.

ROMANS 15:7

NET – NEW ENGLISH TRANSLATION

“Receive one another...”

HOW **NOT** TO
SABOTAGE
YOUR CHURCH




**PHILEMON
17B (E S V)**

“Receive him as you would receive me.”



**WE ARE TO
WARMLY RECEIVE
ONE ANOTHER**

- 
- A black and white photograph of a church building. The image shows the dark, pointed steeple on the left side, topped with a weather vane. Below the steeple, the white entrance of the church is visible, featuring a pediment and columns. The background is a light, hazy sky. The text 'HOW NOT TO SABOTAGE YOUR CHURCH' is overlaid in the bottom left corner of the image.
- Because God Has Welcomed Us
 - Because God Welcomes the Unwelcome
 - Because It Glorifies God

HOW **NOT** TO
SABOTAGE
YOUR CHURCH

Reason #1:

GOD HAS WELCOMED US

Romans 15:7 (ESV) “Therefore welcome one another as Christ has welcomed you, for the glory of God.”

HOW **NOT** TO
SABOTAGE
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A photograph showing the lower half of an adult and a young child walking away from the camera on a sandy beach. The adult is wearing a light blue long-sleeved shirt and dark blue jeans with the cuffs rolled up. The child is wearing a colorful striped t-shirt and blue shorts. They are holding hands. In the background, there are large rocks and a hazy sky.

**ROMANS
8:16 ESV**

“The Spirit himself bears witness with our spirit
that we are children of God”

A group of men in traditional robes walking in a desert landscape. The central figure has long hair and a beard, wearing a light-colored robe. Other men are dressed in various shades of brown and grey, some with hoods. The background is a rocky, arid hillside.

**JOHN
13:35
ESV**

*“By this all people will know that you are my disciples,
if you have love for one another.”*

Romans 10:9 (ESV) “because, if you confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved.”

Romans 10:13 (ESV) “For “everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved.”

A photograph of a church building, showing a dark steeple with a weather vane and a white entrance with columns. The image is partially obscured by a large, light-colored, abstract graphic element that resembles a torn piece of paper or a stylized 'E' shape.

REASONS TO EXCLUDE:

- False Teaching
- Habitual Divisiveness
- Unrepentant Immorality

HOW **NOT** TO
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YOUR CHURCH



**WE ARE TO
WARMLY RECEIVE
ONE ANOTHER**

Reason #2:

GOD WELCOMES THE UNWELCOME

Romans 15:8-9a (ESV) “For I tell you that Christ became a servant to the circumcised to show God’s truthfulness, in order to confirm the promises given to the patriarchs, and in order that the Gentiles might glorify God for his mercy.”

HOW NOT TO
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Genesis 22:18 (ESV) “...and in your offspring shall all the nations of the earth be blessed,”

Galatians 3:8 (ESV) “And the Scripture, foreseeing that God would justify the Gentiles by faith, preached the gospel beforehand to Abraham, saying, “In you shall all the nations be blessed.”



**EPHE
SIANS
2:14
ESV**

“For he himself is our peace, who has made us both one and has broken down in his flesh the dividing wall of hostility”

Romans 15:9 (ESV) “...As it is written, “Therefore I will praise you among the Gentiles, and sing to your name.”

(Quoted from **the PROPHETS** – 2 Samuel 22:50)

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Romans 15:10 (ESV) “And again it is said,
“Rejoice, O Gentiles, with his people.”

(Quoted from **the LAW** – Deuteronomy 32:43)

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Romans 15:11 (ESV) “And again, “Praise the Lord, all you Gentiles, and let all the peoples extol him.”

(Quoted from **the WRITINGS** – Psalm 117:1)

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Romans 15:12 “And again Isaiah says, “The root of Jesse will come, even he who arises to rule the Gentiles; in him will the Gentiles hope.”

(Quoted from **the PROPHETS** – Isaiah 11:10)

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YOUR CHURCH



**WE ARE TO
WARMLY RECEIVE
ONE ANOTHER**

Reason #3:

IT BRINGS GLORY TO GOD

Romans 15:13 (ESV) “May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that by the power of the Holy Spirit you may abound in hope.”

HOW **NOT** TO
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Why This Matters:

**HOW NOT TO
SABOTAGE
YOUR CHURCH**

The background features a complex, abstract pattern of overlapping teal and black rectangular shapes. The teal shapes vary in size and orientation, creating a dynamic, layered effect against the solid black background. The overall aesthetic is modern and graphic.

**DON'T MAKE
DISPUTABLE ISSUES INTO
NON-NEGOTIABLES**



**DON'T ALLOW YOUR
FREEDOM IN CHRIST
TO HARM A FELLOW BELIEVER**

OUR ATTITUDE IN OUR
CHURCH IS TO BE
“US” AND “WE”
NOT “I” AND “ME”





**WE ARE TO
WARMLY RECEIVE
ONE ANOTHER**

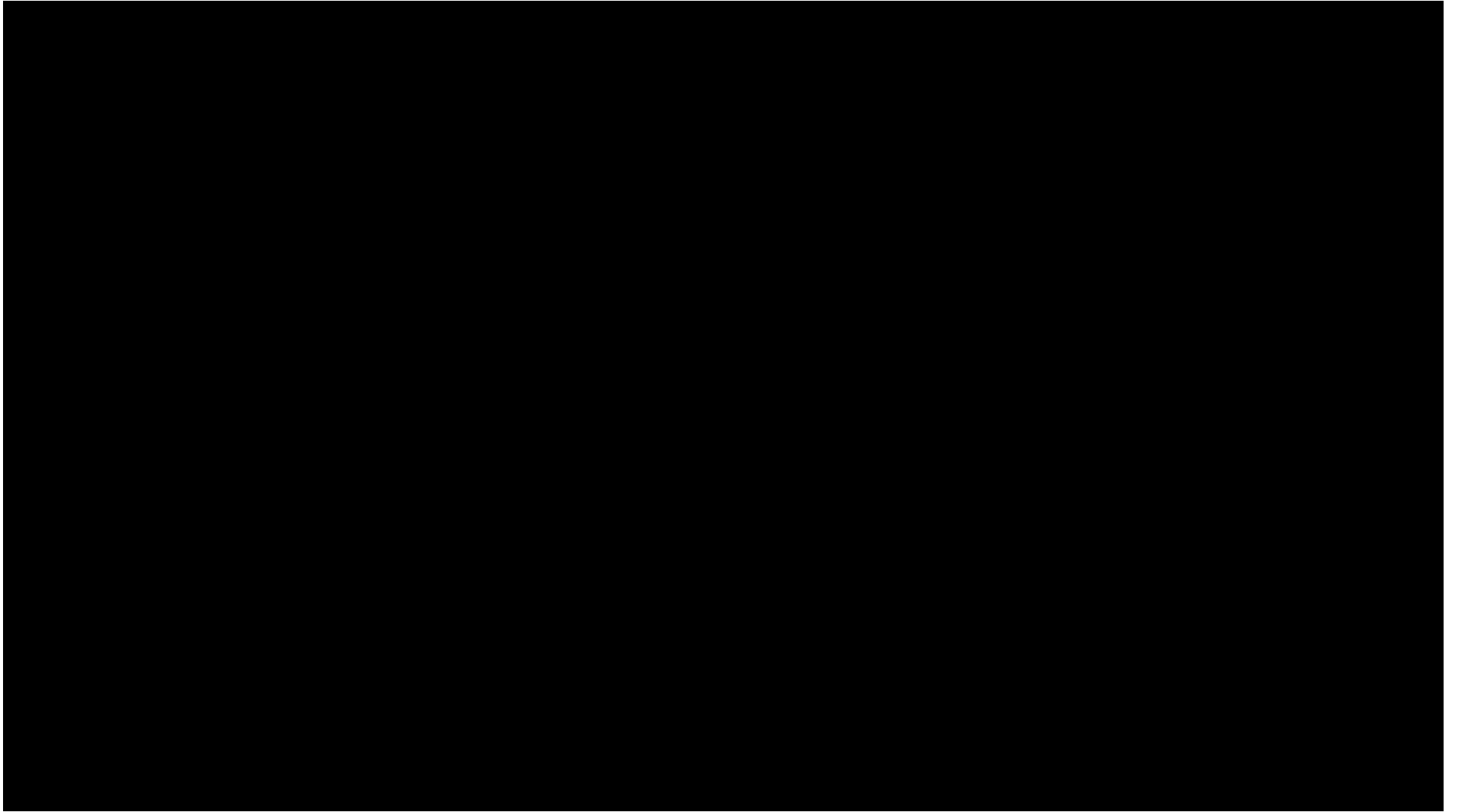


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A STUDY OF ROMANS 14-15



THE
SEAL



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KNOW YOU
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 Families th*

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NAME TODAY'S DATE

EMAIL (Please print)

ADDRESS

CITY

STATE ZIP BEST CONTACT PHONE

HOW DID YOU HEAR ABOUT GRACE?

Driving By Friend + Family

Social Media Other:

Website

I would like to talk to someone about:

- Becoming a new follower of Jesus Christ
- Rededicating my life to Jesus Christ
- Getting Baptized (water immersion)
- Making Grace Church my Home Church
- Baby Dedication
- Serving at Grace Church

I would like more information about:

- Men's Groups
- Women's Groups
- College-Age Groups
- Small Groups (co-ed)
- Children's Ministry
- Nursery 0-2
- Preschool 2-5
- K-6
- Student Ministry
- J. High (7th - 8th)
- Sr. High (9th - 12th)

WHICH SERVICE DID YOU ATTEND? 8:15a 9:45a 11:15a 6p

PLEASE BRING THIS CARD TO THE GUEST SERVICES TABLE IN THE LOBBY AND RECEIVE A FREE T-SHIRT AS OUR GIFT TO YOU. www.grace4families.com

A photograph of two hands clasped together in a prayerful gesture, resting on a dark wooden surface. The hands are positioned on the left side of the frame. The lighting is warm and focused on the hands, creating a sense of intimacy and support. The background is a blurred wooden texture.

NEED
PRAYER?

WE'LL BE UP HERE
AND WOULD LOVE TO
PRAY WITH YOU