

Session 7 Paul's Prayer in Romans 15:5-6, 13

I. UNDERSTANDING THE CONTEXT TO PAUL'S PRAYERS IN ROMANS 15

- A. Paul prayed that God would grant unity to the saints as they were filled with joy, peace, and hope (Rom. 15:5-6, 13). These are God's ideas for which He wants us to contend in prayer.

***⁵Now may the God of patience and comfort grant you to be like-minded toward one another...
⁶that you may with one mind and one mouth glorify the God... ⁷Therefore receive one another, just as Christ also received us, to the glory of God...¹³Now may the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, that you may abound in hope...(Rom. 15:5-7, 13)***

1. Paul mentions five elements that contribute to equipping believers to walk in love or unity or as those who are "like-minded" (15:5b) or who "receive one" another in the graciousness that Jesus receives us (15:7). These five elements are insight into God's patience, receiving God's comfort (15:5a), and the Spirit's impartation of joy, peace, and hope (15:13).
 2. Walking in mature love is synonymous with walking in mature unity. This is the greatest work of the Spirit in the human experience. It requires the transforming power of the Spirit. The end-time Church will experience this transforming miracle of family unity (Jn. 17:21-23).
 3. By walking in mature love, we become "trophies of the grace of God" that bring glory to God.
- B. We gain understanding by seeing this prayer in the context of the section it is in (Rom. 14:1-15:13). In this section, Paul taught kingdom principles to help believers honor one another when holding different views and convictions on various issues. There are truths and commands that the Scripture emphasizes and makes clear—these are of primary importance and must be honored. Other issues are not directly commanded but implied and thus applied differently by believers (Mt. 23:23).

***¹Receive one who is weak in the faith, but not to disputes [to argue with] over doubtful things.
²For one believes he may eat all things, but he who is weak [uninformed] eats only vegetables. ³Let not him who eats despise him who does not eat and let not him who does not eat judge him who eats; for God has received him...⁵One person esteems one day above another; another esteems every day alike. Let each be fully convinced in his own mind...¹⁰But why do you judge your brother? Or why do you show contempt for your brother? For we shall all stand before the judgment seat of Christ...¹²each of us shall give account of himself to God. ¹³Therefore let us not judge one another...but rather resolve this, not to put a stumbling block...in our brother's way. (Rom. 14:1-13)***

1. Paul highlighted two issues that the law of Moses commanded—to abstain from certain meats that were unclean and to observe special days faithfully. The ceremonial rituals that God established through Moses were no longer commanded, for Jesus is the fulfillment of them.
 2. There were more Gentile believers than Jewish in the first century Church. Most were unfamiliar with the law of Moses—its rituals, animal sacrifices, unclean things, special days, etc. Many devout Jews who came to a saving knowledge of Jesus had deep convictions about keeping the laws of Moses. There was great conflict over these issues in the early Church (Acts 15).
- C. The issue is how we relate to people as we observe their wrong views, failures, and deficiencies.

- D. Paul exhorted them to accept those who were weak in faith without seeing it as an occasion to win an argument with them—that is, to “dispute over doubtful things” not clearly stated in Scripture. *Weak in faith* speaks of being imperfectly instructed in the real meaning of liberty in Christ.

¹Receive one who is weak in the faith, but not to disputes over doubtful things. (Rom. 14:1)

¹Accept...[those] faith is weak, without quarreling over disputable matters. (Rom. 14:1; NIV)

- E. There were rituals and practices commanded by the law of Moses that are no longer required.

¹Stand fast therefore in the liberty by which Christ has made us free, and do not be entangled again with a yoke of bondage. (Gal. 5:1)

**¹⁶So let no one judge you in food or in drink, or regarding a festival or a new moon or sabbaths,
¹⁷which are a shadow of things to come, but the substance is of Christ...²⁰ Why...do you subject yourselves to regulations —²¹“Do not touch, do not taste, do not handle” ... (Col. 2:16-21)**

⁹It was symbolic...¹⁰fleshly ordinances imposed until the time of reformation. (Heb. 9:9-10)

- F. Examples of issues that some sincerely debate and break relationship with one another over: Varying political views, wearing of masks (during COVID), use of vaccinations, the use of fire arms to protect life in the face of violence, civil disobedience, varying standards of entertainment (music, movies), use of tobacco, wine, or legal drugs, lifestyles (size of house, type of car, etc.), modesty, (clothing, makeup, jewelry etc.), domestic issues (home schooling, disciplining children, birth control), environmental concerns (fuel, recycling), various medical procedures, etc.

- G. Paul’s main point in his instruction and prayer is that we must speak to each other with humility, honor, and a spirit of patience to enlighten the other believer rather than win our argument.

- H. The primary issues in God’s kingdom are righteousness, peace, and joy. The gospel of the kingdom does not consist of making secondary issues primary, such as abstaining from meat and drink.

¹⁷...the kingdom of God is not eating and drinking, but righteousness and peace and joy in the Holy Spirit...¹⁹Let us pursue the things which...edify...²¹It is good neither to eat meat nor drink wine nor do anything by which your brother stumbles...or is made weak. (Rom. 14:17-21)

II. PAUL’S PRAYER IN ROMANS 15:5-7

- A. Paul prayed for the Spirit’s inspiration that they might love one another as he taught in Roman 14.

⁵May the God of patience and comfort grant you to be like-minded...according to Christ Jesus, that you may with one mind and one mouth glorify God... ⁷Therefore receive one another, just as Christ also received us, to the glory of God... (Rom. 15:5-7)

- B. ***The God of patience and comfort:*** We pray for revelation of God’s heart of patience and a release of His comfort. The Spirit imparts these in and through our lives as we personally experience the Lord’s patience and comfort in our weakness. We give to others out of what we receive from Him.

³...the God of all comfort, ⁴who comforts us in all our tribulation, that we may be able to comfort those ...with the comfort with which we ourselves are comforted by God. (2 Cor. 1:3-4)

- C. One way He comforts us is by helping us gain His perspective of the “big picture” both for our life and in difficult circumstances. By having this perspective in our life, we are able to see His perspective or big picture for others—empowering us to be patient with them and to comfort them.
- D. **Grant us to be like-minded:** This is a prayer that He grant us grace to reveal and express His patience and comfort that is stronger than all our disagreements and complaints against others.
1. We pray that the Spirit inspires us to see and feel how He sees and feels towards others by opening the eyes of our heart to see them through the lens of His patience and graciousness.
 2. The Spirit desires to empower His people to walk out kingdom community life as Jesus prayed in John 17:21-23. This is possible only by seeing people like He sees them.
23...that they may be made perfect in one, and that the world may know that You have sent Me, and have loved them as You have loved Me. (Jn. 17:23)
 3. The like-mindedness here does not imply that everyone will agree on each issue but that we are like-minded in seeing the value and honor of one another through His eyes. New believers are not expected to have the same measure of light on spiritual things as mature Christians!
- E. **That with one mind and mouth we may glorify God:** In our mind, we are to see “the God narrative” or “His big picture” perspective of what He is doing in His Church and in individual people. With our mouth we are to say what He says about people without complaining or slandering them.
1. Ask the Holy Spirit to let us see, feel, and say what He sees, feels, and says about the people in our lives. We want to say what He says about one another.
 2. The prayers of a man are hindered if he does not speak in godly way to his wife (1 Pet. 3:7).
***7Husbands...dwell with them with understanding, giving honor to the wife, as to the weaker vessel, and as heirs together of the grace of life, that your prayers may not be hindered...
10Let him refrain his tongue from evil and his lips from speaking deceit. (1 Pet. 3:7, 10)***
- F. **According to Christ Jesus** (15:5): We can only walk in this supernatural lifestyle because of Jesus.
1. We do this according to *Christ's death on the cross*: It gives us free access to the Father and the empowering of the Spirit to walk this out.
 2. We do this according to *Christ's command*: He commanded us to love each one (Jn. 13:35).
 3. We do this according to *Christ's example*: His response to disputes among His disciples when He washed their feet.
- G. We do this by making Christ and His leadership the central focus of our unity. As we are captured by Him and the big things of His kingdom, our perspective is lifted “above the storms” of life.
- H. Receive one another, just as Christ received us: We ask that He tenderize our hearts for others with the love and patience that He has for us (Jn. 15:9) and impart to us the unity for which Jesus prayed. It requires the supernatural work of the Spirit to receive one another in the generosity in which Jesus receives us. *Our challenge is in first learning to see that He really receives us with great generosity.* As I see the “God narrative” of my life and how He views me, then I can see others in this way.

III. PAUL'S PRAYER IN ROMANS 15:13

- A. Paul prayed we would be filled with joy and peace and abound in hope in the face of difficulties.
¹³Now 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. (Rom. 15:13)
- B. ***Fill us with all joy and peace:*** This prayer includes the Spirit empowering us to enjoy Jesus and His family, even in difficulties, by giving us more insight into the truth about Him and His leadership.
1. We pray for an historic visitation of the Holy Spirit's impartation of peace, joy, and hope for the thousands of believers in our city.
 2. We can enjoy and delight in Jesus with gratitude, even in the midst of difficulties and delays.
⁹"As the Father loved Me, I also have loved you; abide in My love ...¹¹These things I have spoken to you, that My joy may remain in you, and that your joy may be full." (Jn. 15:9-11)
 3. The grace to enjoy interacting with Him even as we are faithful in small, mundane, and challenging ministry assignments and acts of service: Help us to enjoy Him in doing the work of the kingdom. By seeing His leadership we gain peace or a sense of security and well-being.
- C. ***In believing:*** As our eyes are fixed on Jesus—His leadership and promises—and we understand that His eyes are on us, we grow in peace with confidence in Him, having a strong sense of security.
²And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what is that good and acceptable and perfect will of God. (Rom. 12:2)
- D. ***That we may abound in hope:*** by the power of the Spirit. We ask for an impartation of hope or certainty about the future. This includes grasping more clearly what His plans are and what He is saying about our personal life, family, marriage, children, parents, finances, ministry, city, nation, etc., even in the face of difficult circumstances. He is doing far better than we currently understand.
- E. We may have 70 years on earth, but God's glorious plan for us continues for billions of years.
¹⁶We do not lose heart. Even though our outward man is perishing, yet the inward man is being renewed day by day. ¹⁷For our light affliction, which is but for a moment, is working for us a far more exceeding and eternal weight of glory, ¹⁸while we do not look at the things which are seen, but at the things which are not seen...the things which are not seen are eternal. (2 Cor. 4:16-18)
1. We ask the Spirit to fill us with hope that He is watching us, that He will intervene, that victory is certain, and that He remembers all that we have done in seeking to obey Him.
 2. We will receive a 100-fold recovery of all that we lost in persecution.
¹¹"Blessed are you when they revile and persecute you ...for My sake. ¹²Rejoice and be exceedingly glad, for great is your reward in heaven..." (Mt. 5:11-12)
- F. ***By the power of the Holy Spirit:*** We do not have the strength to sustain a positive mindset with confidence without the inspiration of Spirit given individually and corporately. He supernaturally gives us hope from the written Word and by prophetic dreams and visions directly and from others.