

So then let us *pursue* what makes for <u>peace</u> and for <u>mutual upbuilding</u>. **Romans 14:19**

¹ We who are strong have an obligation to bear with the failings of the weak, and not to please ourselves. ² Let each of us please his neighbor for his good, to build him up. ³ For Christ did not please himself, but as it is written, "The reproaches of those who reproached you fell on me. (Ps. 69:9)" ⁴ For whatever was written in former days was written for our instruction, that through endurance and through the encouragement of the Scriptures we might have hope.

⁵ May the God of endurance and encouragement grant you to live in such harmony with one another, in accord with Christ Jesus, ⁶ that together you may with one voice glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ. ⁷ Therefore welcome one another as Christ has welcomed you, for the glory of God.

----- Romans 15:1 – 7

Brothers, if anyone is caught in any transgression, you who are spiritual should restore him in a spirit of gentleness. Keep watch on yourself, lest you too be tempted. Bear one another's burdens, and so fulfill the law of Christ. Galatians 6:1-2 That evening they brought to him many who were oppressed by demons, and he cast out the spirits with a word and healed all who were sick. This was to fulfill what was spoken by the prophet Isaiah: "He took our illnesses and *bore* our diseases (Is. 53:4)." Matthew 8:16–17

"Unity is a spirit that God must 'give you.' No method can create it; it is from him. And it comes from a common following of Christ. God gives it 'as you follow Christ Jesus.' This *real* unity does not come when we seek it directly. Rather, it is a byproduct of seeking something other than unity; namely, seeking to follow Christ." - Dr. Timothy Keller, *Romans For You* (2014)

⁸ 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, ⁹ and in order that the Gentiles might glorify God for his mercy.

----- Everlasting Hope

As it is written, "Therefore I will praise you among the Gentiles, and sing to your name." ¹⁰ And again it is said, "Rejoice, O Gentiles, with his people." ¹¹ And again, "Praise the Lord, all you Gentiles, and let all the peoples extol him." 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."

¹³ 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.

----- Romans 15:8 - 13

"The word hope I take for faith; and indeed, hope is nothing else but the *constancy of faith*."

- John Calvin, Commentary on the Epistles (2007)