

Rejoice With Each Other

Over the course of August we have spent our time in Romans 14-15. Here Paul stresses the relationship between strong and weak brethren. He wants to help the weak and strong Christian function together in unity. We might refer to this section as unity in action. Today, we'll examine Romans 15.7-13 where Paul urges Christians to rejoice with one another.

I. Romans 15.7: Welcome One Another

- A. First, let's examine v. 6: ...*glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ with **one mind and one voice**.*
- B. How are we to respond? What is our responsibility?
 1. Romans 15:7a: *Therefore **welcome** one another,...*
 - a) Written with intensity. "To pull very close to yourself."
 - b) "To take as one's companion; to take by the hand and lead."
 2. We don't accept them by begrudgingly putting up with them.
 3. See Matthew 10.40: *The one who welcomes you welcomes me, and the one who welcomes me welcomes **him who sent me**.*
- C. Romans 15.7b: *just as **Christ** welcomed you.* He is our model. Matthew 11.29.
 1. Ephesians 4:32: *And be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving one another, just as God also **forgave** you in Christ.*
 2. Luke 15:2: *This man welcomes sinners and eats with them.*
- D. Why did Christ receive you?
 1. 15.7c: *to the **glory** of God.*
 2. It reflects the love of Christ. It brings God praise.

II. Romans 15.8-12: Equality in Salvation

- A. 15:8-9: Gentile equality in salvation
 1. Romans 15:8: *For I say that Christ became a servant of the circumcised on behalf of God's truth, to **confirm** the promises to the fathers,*
 - a) Jesus came as a Jew ... to be a servant of the Jews ... for the purpose of truth in confirming all the promises made to the Fathers.
 2. Romans 15:9: Jesus came to bring the Gentiles **mercy**.
 3. Both are to blend together in one mind and one voice and bring glory to God.
- B. Four OT Quotes
 1. Romans 15.9b is from Psalm 18.49.
 2. Romans 15:10 is from Deuteronomy 32.43.
 3. Romans 15:11 is from Psalm 117.1.
 4. Romans 15:12 is from Isaiah 11.1, 10.
- C. This is the plan of God

III. As We Close...

- A. Romans 15.13: Paul's Benediction: *Now may the God of hope **fill** you with all joy and peace as you believe so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.*
- B. Paul is praying that we be totally spiritually satisfied.
- C. Do you need Jesus?