

# What's Killing Our Unity?

What is actually killing our unity? Because something is. In Romans 15:5-7, Paul is writing to the church in Rome - a congregation he has never visited, full of people he has never met. In these three verses, there is a wealth of things to consider. Today, we'll ask, what kills our unity, and what does God say about it?

## I. We've Confused Unity with Uniformity

- A. Romans 15:1: *Now we who are strong have an **obligation** to bear the weaknesses of those without strength, and not to please ourselves*
  - 1. "Obligation" is not a suggestion. It's a responsibility.
- B. Romans 15:3: *For even Christ did not please himself. **This statement drives the entire passage.***
- C. Romans 15:7: *Therefore **welcome** one another, just as Christ also welcomed you, to the glory of God.*
  - 1. "to take someone fully into your fellowship. See them as a companion."
  - 2. "To grant access to one's heart." "To take into friendship."
    - a) This is not just polite tolerance; Paul is calling for something that costs you and transforms you.
- D. How This is Accomplished
  - 1. **A void** passing judgment on a weaker brother.
  - 2. **C ommit** yourself to live for Christ.
  - 3. **C ontrol** your attitudes and emotions with love.
  - 4. **E dify** everyone you can.
  - 5. **P rivately** hold to your personal convictions.
  - 6. **T reasure** people like Jesus did.
- E. How did Christ Receive You? Romans 15:7: *just as Christ also welcomed you.*

## II. We've Made Secondary Things Primary

- A. Romans 15:5: *Now may the God who gives endurance and encouragement grant you to **live in harmony** with one another, according to Christ Jesus,*
  - 1. His answer isn't ... figure out who's right and make the other side comply.
- B. Those that we draw lines against ... Christ died for them.

## III. We've Forgotten What We're For

- A. Romans 15:6: *so that you may glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ with **one mind and one voice**.*
  - 1. One mind. One voice. This is the goal.
  - 2. When we become fragmented and fractured: God is not glorified and the world doesn't see Jesus ... they see us.
- B. And really, it's not about us.
  - 1. Romans 15:7: *Therefore welcome one another, just as Christ also welcomed you, to **the glory of God**.*
  - 2. Note how our welcoming each other is actually an act of worship.
- C. Compare John 17:21: **May they all be one**, as you, Father, are in me and I am in you. *May they also be in us, so that the world may believe you sent me.*
  - 1. When Christ welcomed you, he was making an investment - not just in you, but in what your life joined to others would produce for His Father's glory.

## IV. As We Close...

- A. We have truth. God's word is settled. Christ is Lord. But, truth is not a weapon, or a wall, or a membership card. You hold it ... according to Christ Jesus. He is the standard.
- B. Here's Where We Start:
  - 1. Look at the person sitting beside you today - Ask yourself: Did Christ receive them?
  - 2. If He did, what right do we have to do anything else?