

Built for the Glory of God

During the month of August, we'll be looking at how God has blessed us and giving thanks for His marvelous and abundant blessings. We'll also be talking about our mission as a local church. As we examine Romans 15 today, it is important to remember Paul's overall objective in the section that began in the previous chapter, where he is dealing with certain attitudes and behavior that can cripple the work, influence, and unity of a local congregation.

I. Differences in Preference Can't Be Wiped Away

- A. 15.1 - *Now we who are **strong** have an obligation to bear the weaknesses of those without **strength**, and not to please ourselves.*
 - 1. There will always be matters we can't agree upon so, 14.1b - *don't argue about **disputed** matters.*
 - 2. 15.1b - *We are in this **not to please ourselves**.*
- B. This is the guideline for our behavior concerning non-essential things.
 - 1. Those who are strong bear the weaknesses of those without strength for the purpose of building the other person up in his/her faith.

II. How To Live with Differences in Preference

- A. Romans 15.2 - **Edification.**
 - a) 1 Corinthians 14.26b - *everything is to be done for building up.*
 - b) 1 Corinthians 14.31b - *everything is to be done for the purpose that everyone may lean and everyone may be **encouraged**.*
 - c) 1 Corinthians 14.33 - *God is not a God of disorder but of peace.*
 - d) 1 Thessalonians 5.11 - *encourage one another and build each other up...*
- B. 15.1b - **Self-denial** - *is not to **please** yourself.*
 - 1. 15.3 - *For even Christ did not please himself.* Jesus serves as the example and source of our personal example in following through.
 - 2. 15.4 - *For whatever was written in the past was written for our instruction, so that we may have hope through and endurance and through the encouragement from the Scriptures.*
- C. 15.5 - **Prayer** - *Now may the God who gives endurance and encouragement grant you to live in **harmony** with one another, according to Christ Jesus,*

III. The Aim is Authentic Worship

- A. Note what is said in 15.6: *so that you may **glorify** the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ with one mind and one voice.*
- B. 15.6b - *With **one** mind* - one mind in the shared values ... not shared preferences.
- C. 15.6c - *we work together with one voice.*
- D. Read 15.6 again ... all of this is for the glorification of the **Father**.

IV. Conclusion

- A. 15.7 - *therefore **welcome** one another, just as Christ also welcome you, to the glory of God.*
- B. Have you given yourself to Him? How can we help you?