

ROMANS 37

STAY TOGETHER PART 2

DIVISION IN OUR NATION IS PUTTING PRESSURE ON OUR “E PLURIBUS UNUM”

The national melting pot is becoming a jigsaw puzzle.

CHURCHES STRUGGLE WITH THIS TOO

Churches _____ until they _____.

_____ *IS THE GREATEST DANGER OF THE CHURCH.*

OBVIOUSLY SOME THINGS ARE _____ DISAGREEMENTS

Galatians 1:8 (NLT) Let God’s curse fall on anyone, including us or even an angel from heaven, who preaches a different kind of Good News than the one we preached to you.

Romans 16:17 Keep your eye on those who cause dissensions and hindrances contrary to the teaching which you learn...

Romans 12:18 If possible, so far as it depends on you, be at peace with all men.

PAUL IS NOT SAYING, AVOID CONFLICT AT ALL _____; HE IS SAYING AVOID CONFLICT IF AT ALL _____.

TWO ESSENTIALS FOR UNITY

1) YOU HAVE TO BE _____

2) YOU HAVE TO BE _____

Romans 15:7 ACCEPT one another.

This word “_____” is used 5 times in the whole Bible. And four of those times it is used in Romans 14 and 15. It meant, “Take to yourself. Pull this guy in. Embrace him. Hold him close.”

I. WE HAVE TO _____ LIKE THE FATHER

GOD LOVES _____

God is an artist. Look at the opening lines of his book:

GENESIS 1:1 In the beginning God CREATED.

In his book, *I Was Just Wondering*, Phil Yancey asks,

“Why is it that the most beautiful animals on earth are hidden away from all humans except for those wearing elaborate scuba equipment? Who are they beautiful for?”

GOD LOVES VARIETY. WE INSIST ON _____.

Romans 15:7, Accept one another...

DRAW THEM IN. BRING THEM CLOSE. *Even when they don't look or think the exact same way as you.*

II. WE HAVE TO _____ LIKE JESUS _____

Romans 15:7, accept one another, JUST AS CHRIST ACCEPTED YOU.

Romans 5:10 For if while we were enemies we were reconciled to God through the death of His Son, much more, having been reconciled, we shall be saved by His life.

JESUS LOVED US WHEN WE _____ HIM.

III. WE HAVE TO _____ WHAT THE BIBLE SAYS

The authority of the Bible must dominate our thinking

**THE JEWS WERE RACIST AGAINST THE GENTILES
THE GENTILES WERE RACIST AGAINST THE JEWS**

All that animosity doesn't suddenly _____ when you go to church.

HOW DO YOU GET THESE TWO GROUPS TO STOP HATING EACH OTHER? YOU PUT THEM UNDER A _____.

Romans 15:8 For I say that CHRIST HAS BECOME A SERVANT TO THE CIRCUMCISION on behalf of the truth of God to confirm the promises given to the fathers,

Romans 15:9 AND FOR THE GENTILES to glorify God for His mercy;

... AS IT IS WRITTEN ...

"THEREFORE I WILL GIVE PRAISE TO YOU AMONG THE GENTILES, AND I WILL SING TO YOUR NAME."

Romans 15:10 Again he says,

"REJOICE, O GENTILES, WITH HIS PEOPLE."

Romans 15:11 And again,

"PRAISE THE LORD ALL YOU GENTILES, AND LET ALL THE PEOPLES PRAISE HIM."

Romans 15:12 Again Isaiah says,

"THERE SHALL COME THE ROOT OF JESSE, AND HE WHO ARISES TO RULE OVER THE GENTILES, IN HIM SHALL THE GENTILES HOPE."

Paul used the Bible to suss out any residual racial resentment.

The authority of _____ must have greater weight than my personal _____ or cultural legacy

SCRIPTURE DELEGITIMIZES DIVISION.

Colossians 3:11 NLT a renewal in which there is no distinction between Greek and Jew, circumcised and uncircumcised, barbarian, Scythian, slave and freeman, but Christ is all, and in all.

Galatians 3: 28 NASV There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free man, there is neither male nor female; for you are all one in Christ Jesus.

WATCH THE WONDERFUL WAY PAUL AFFIRMS _____

Romans 16:1 I commend to you our sister Phoebe

Romans 16:2 Receive her in the lord IN A MANNER WORTHY OF THE SAINTS...

*Romans 16:3 Greet **PRISCA** and Aquila, my fellow workers*

Notice the order. When we first met them it was Aquila and Priscilla.

Acts 18:2 And he found a Jew named Aquila, a native of Pontus, having recently come from Italy with his wife Priscilla, because Claudius had commanded all the Jews to leave Rome. He came to them,

*Romans 16:6 Greet **MARY**, who has worked hard for you.*

There are 28 names mentioned including a mother and sister. Ten of those are female.

IN A WORLD WHERE WOMEN WERE GENERALLY _____ THE CHURCH WAS A PLACE WHERE WOMEN WERE _____.

WATCH THE WONDERFUL WAY HE AFFIRMS EVERY _____

Romans 16:13 Greet RUFUS, a choice man in the Lord, also his mother and mine.

*Mark 15:21 They *pressed into service a passer-by coming from the country, Simon of Cyrene (the father of Alexander and RUFUS), to bear His cross.*

Acts 13:1 Now there were at Antioch, in the church that was there, prophets and teachers: BARNABAS, and SIMEON who was called NIGER, and LUCIUS of Cyrene, and MANAEN who had been brought up with Herod the tetrarch, and SAUL.

THIS LIST INCLUDES FIVE MEN.

BARNABAS -- a wealthy Jew.

MANAEN -- a wealthy Jew.

SAUL, Paul, -- a brilliant Jew.

LUCIUS of Cyrene. African.

And **SIMEON**. That's a different version of the word, Simon.

SIMEON NIGER WAS SO _____ IN THE CHURCH THAT HE WAS ONE OF THE FIVE ELDERS OF ANTIOCH!

“Greet RUFUS, a choice man in the lord, also his mother and mine.”

Paul said, “His mamma is like a mother to me.”

THERE IS NO DIVISION. CHRIST IS ALL AND IN ALL. HE HAS MADE EVERY TRIBE INTO ONE!

**THERE IS NOTHING MORE _____ THAN A CHURCH DIVIDED.
BUT THERE IS NOTHING MORE _____ THAN THE CHURCH UNITED.**

Romans 16:25-27

25 Now to Him who is able to establish you according to my gospel and the preaching of Jesus Christ, according to the revelation of the mystery which has been kept secret for long ages past,

26 but now is manifested, and by the Scriptures of the prophets, according to the commandment of the eternal God, has been made known to all the nations, leading to obedience of faith;

27 to the only wise God, through Jesus Christ, be the glory forever. Amen.