

Glorifying the Father

Romans 15:1-13 NASB The Westminster catechism: "The chief end of man is to glorify God and enjoy Him forever."

- I. By pursuing unity.
 - a. The Father is preparing a bride for His Son, but the Son is also preparing a family for His Father. John 14:31 Jesus is going to the cross so the world knows that He loves the Father.
 - i. His goal is to bring us to the Father (John 14:6). His prayer is that the Father would make us one. John 17
 - ii. 15:6 "One purpose and one voice that we may glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ."
 - b. Bear with the weaknesses, sensitivities, and differences of others for Jesus' sake.
 - i. Jesus has accepted you not because you were good but because of His grace toward you through the cross. Romans 3:23-24 ESV "...for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, ²⁴and are justified by his grace as a gift, through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus." You didn't earn His acceptance so no believer should have to earn yours! "Accept one another as God, in Christ, has accepted you." In the same way!
 - ii. Bear with the weaknesses, sensitivities, and differences of others for Jesus' sake – He bore reproach for you and for us, now He asks us to bear with one another and not reject one another because it would be easier.
 - iii. For their good. Phil. 2:4-8 ESV "Let each of you look not only to his own interests, but also to the interests of others. ⁵Have this mind among yourselves, which is yours in Christ Jesus,^[a] ⁶who, though he was in the form of God, did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped,^[b] ⁷but emptied himself, by taking the form of a servant,^[c] being born in the likeness of men. ⁸And being found in human form, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross." He looked to our interests – He laid down His life so that we could have eternal life.
 - iv. Fosston – This is impossible! "I'm just calling you to serve them."
 1. 2Corinthians 4:5 ESV "For what we proclaim is not ourselves, but Jesus Christ as Lord, with ourselves as your servants^[a] for Jesus' sake." Not because you want to or because you think they will receive. The engine is for Jesus' sake.

2. Romans 12:18 *We aren't responsible for how others respond, but we have to always do our part to be at peace with everyone.
- c. The Father's response.
 - i. Psalm 133 As our worship ascends up, His anointing and blessing flow down.
 - ii. Acts 2 The more lines we cross, the more anointing is released. Race (all flesh); sex (men and women); generations (old men and young men, sons and daughters); economics (men servants and maid servants); I add denominations – Baptist, Anglican, Lutheran, Catholic, charismatic, Pentecostal – one purpose and one voice glorifying God the Father.

II. By persevering in hope.

- a. 15:4-5 NASB "For whatever was written in earlier times was written for our instruction, so that through perseverance and the encouragement of the Scriptures we might have hope. ⁵Now may the God ^[a]who gives perseverance and encouragement grant you to be of the same mind with one another, according to Christ Jesus," *The Scriptures were written to us, but they were written for us. We must study what the Word of God mean to those people in that time. But the God who helped them is exactly the same – the One who gave them perseverance will give us perseverance. The Father is glorified when we don't give up!
- b. The hall of faith. Hebrews 12:1 ESV "Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us also lay aside every weight, and sin which clings so closely, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us..."
 - i. Abraham made it even with Hagar, Ishmael, and half lies about Sarah.
 - ii. David made it even with Saul's jealousy, and his sin against Bathsheba and Uriah.
 - iii. Even Samson made it after his addiction and recklessness with Delilah. Vs 32 Samson is mentioned as one who pleased God with his faith. Judges 16:22 (His hair began to grow again)
- c. Combatting self-pity. James 5:10-11 NIV "Brothers and sisters, as an example of patience in the face of suffering, take the prophets who spoke in the name of the Lord. ¹¹As you know, we count as blessed those who have persevered. You have heard of Job's perseverance and have seen what the Lord finally brought about. The Lord is full of compassion and mercy."
 - i. Your calling is not as hard as Jeremiah's! Buck up! (Jeremiah 12:5)
 - ii. Short term pain leads to long term gain – Job.

III. By overflowing to others.

- a. 15:13 NIV “May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in him, so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.”
- b. The Gentiles came in because of the overflow of the gospel. 15:8-9 ESV “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, ⁹and in order that the Gentiles might glorify God for his mercy. As it is written, “Therefore I will praise you among the Gentiles, and sing to your name.” *Philip kept overflowing – Samaritans, Ethiopian eunuch, and then those who were scattered because of persecution started preaching to Greeks in Antioch without permission from anyone – evidence of the grace of God.
- c. John in my office on Monday – in Rio last week and in Randalf this week. *Taylor's story.

You will glorify the Father today if you receive His mercy!