

Romans: Unashamed; the righteous shall live by faith

Romans 15:1-7 Prt 40

MPS: God gives us endurance and encouragement to live in harmony

OPEN:

West Eastern Divan Orchestra (pictures)

Is a famous, world renown orchestra that travels the world playing in the most prestigious places – they have an academy in Berlin Germany that teach students all over the world. Saying they are brilliantly amazing is an understatement.

It started with a man by the name of Daniel Barenboim along with Edward Said had a crazy idea: “Let’s make music now war”

In 1999, he gathered world class musicals from nations that hated one another - Generations of war between their families:

Imagine an orchestra. Violins from Israel. Cellos from Palestine. Flutes from Syria. Drums from Lebanon. they’ve never played together.

Put them on one stage, hand them Beethoven’s 9th, and what do you get?
Noise. Discord. Chaos.”

“But the conductor—Daniel Barenboim—wanted harmony – not only in their music, but in their lives. He didn’t lecture them on politics. He didn’t force unity.

He just said: ‘Listen to each other. Play with each other, not at each other.’ First rehearsal? Awkward. There was so much tension in the room but then, over time, something happens.

Note by note, they lock in. By the end? They’re not just playing Beethoven—they’re weeping. In their first ever concert, when the chord of their final piece rings out... the audience, consisting of Arabs, Jews, Christians—stands in silence... then erupts.

Enemies became family through harmony.”

That’s Romans 15:1–7.

We’re the orchestra—different gifts, wounds, backgrounds.

Christ is the Conductor. He doesn’t erase our differences—He tunes them.

He welcomed us while we were off-key sinners... so now we welcome each other.

The music is the beauty of God’s story for the world to erupt in praise when we come together in harmony.

For them, making music together brought them endurance and encouragement to be in harmony.

But for us as Christians to be in harmony:

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Vs 1 We who are strong have an obligation to bear with the failings of the weak, and not to please ourselves.

When studying the Bible, ask: Who, what, where, why, when, how?

- “to bear.” The word means “to pick up and carry a weight.” It is used of carrying a man (Acts 21:35),
- “The strong are not to simply tolerate the weaknesses of their weaker brothers; they are to help the weak shoulder their burdens by showing loving and practical consideration for them” MacArthur
- What is verse one saying? Answer: bear with the failings of the weak and not please ourselves

Vs 2 Let each of us please his neighbor for his good, to build him up.

Who is my neighbor? Good Samaritan is a good answer.

Why do we do it? Answer: to build up those in need

- My life for others

How do we do it?

1. Follow Christ's example.

Vs 3 For Christ did not please himself, but as it is written, “The reproaches of those who reproached you fell on me.”

- **Jesus'** ultimate purpose was to please God the Father and accomplish His will

Philippians 2:6–8 (ESV) *6 who, though he was in the form of God, did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped, 7 but emptied himself, by taking the form of a servant, being born in the likeness of men. 8 And being found in human form, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross.*

- Quoted from Psa 69:9

- “Reproaches” refers to slander, false accusations, and insults. Men hate God, and they manifested that same hate toward the One He sent to reveal Himself

2. Follow God’s Word

Vs 4 *For whatever was written in former days was written for our instruction, that through endurance and through the encouragement of the Scriptures we might have hope.*

- Bible study is worship not just intellectual
- Do you know how to study the bible?
- Do you want to?
- Inductive method:
 - Observation
 - Interpretation
 - Application
- **Observation: What Does the Text Say?**
Focus on facts Ask: *Who? What? When? Where? Why? How?*
 - Read the passage multiple times (aloud if helpful).
 - Mark key elements:
 - Key words (repeated terms, names, verbs—e.g., circle "love" in John 3:16).
 - Contrasts/Comparisons (e.g., "but" or "like/as").
 - Commands/Promises (underline or box).
 - Lists or progressions (number them 1, 2, 3).
 - Context: Note the book's author, audience, historical setting, and surrounding chapters.
- **Interpretation: What Does the Text Mean?**
Seek the author's intended meaning in its original context. Ask: *What did this mean to the original audience?*
 - Cross-reference related passages (use a concordance or Bible app).
 - Look for the "big idea" or main point.
 - Principles:
 - Scripture interprets Scripture (clear passages explain obscure ones).
 - One interpretation, many applications.
 - Avoid eisegesis (reading your ideas *into* the text).
- **Application: How Does This Change Me?**
Make it personal and actionable. Ask: *What should I do in response?*
 - Use the SPECK acronym (from Precept):
 - Sin to confess?
 - Promise to claim?
 - Example to follow?
 - Command to obey?

- Knowledge about God to believe?
- Rope in a blizzard illustration

Vs 5 May the God of endurance and encouragement grant you to live in such harmony with one another, in accord with Christ Jesus,

Psalm 133:1 (ESV) *1 Behold, how good and pleasant it is when brothers dwell in unity!*

What is the result of worshipping God through HIS Word?

- a. Endurance –**
Marathons not sprints –
We need to stay plugged in to God
The bible gives us endurance because God IS endurance
 - b. Encouragement**
"You can never encourage anyone too much. It is impossible to over-encourage someone in Christ." Ray Ortlund
 - c. Hope**
Without the clear and certain promises of the Word of God, the believer has no basis for hope.
 - d. Harmony – can't have it without the conductor inviting you into the orchestra – through faith in Jesus you have it.**
We don't give enough credence to harmony. It doesn't feel like it has value... until you don't have it.
- A great resource for learning to study the Bible: www.precept.org
 - Hope found in the Scriptures, community built upon the Scriptures, endurance and encouragement coming from the Scriptures, harmony is a result of living the Scriptures.
 - Paul urges the strong and the weak (*see notes on 14:1–12*), despite their differing views on these non-essential issues, to pursue loving, spiritual harmony in regard to matters on which the Bible is silent.

3. Welcome one another.

Vs 6-7 *that together you may with one voice glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ.*
7 *Therefore welcome one another as Christ has welcomed you, for the glory of God.*

- e. Worship**
- f. Welcome (invite)**

Isaiah 43:7 (ESV) *7 everyone who is called by my name, whom I created for my glory, whom I formed and made."*

- We surely glorify God by welcoming others the way Jesus welcomed us.
- If the perfect, sinless Son of God was willing to bring sinners into God's family, how much more should forgiven believers be willing to warmly embrace and accept each other in spite of their disagreements over issues of conscience

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QUESTIONS FOR GROUPS:

1. What are some ways you can work to invite (welcome) others into your community of other believers?
2. Do you need endurance and/or encouragement to invite others? Where do you get it? How will you start getting it?
3. Is there another brother or sister in Christ you are not in harmony with? What will you do about it?