



# ULTIMATE MAKEOVER

We should help others do what is right and build them up in the Lord. For even Christ didn't live to please himself. As the Scriptures say, "The insults of those who insult you, O God, have fallen on me."

*Romans 15:2-3*



What is one thing about your background, culture, family, or upbringing that most people in the group probably don't know?

Read **Romans 15:1-13** together.

1. Verses 1-3 has a challenge for spiritually mature believers – what is it?
  - We are called to please and build up other believers – what are some practical ways you could strengthen another believer during an ordinary day/week?
  - Paul points to Jesus' example rather than giving us a rule to follow – how do accounts like **John 13:1-17** motivate or challenge us to “follow Jesus” and His example?
  - Our culture calls us to prioritise our rights, preferences and comfort above others, how can this be damaging to the Church?
  - What is one simple thing you have done or we can do to be counter-cultural? (and more like Christ!)
2. In verses 5-7 we are called to accept others as Christ accepted us – What does Jesus' acceptance look like according to **Romans 5:6-10**?
  - What barriers separate Christians today?
  - What is the difference between accepting someone and agreeing with everything they believe or do?
  - Jesus focused on bringing people together – how can asking “who can I bring together?” rather than “who belongs with us?” break down barriers between us?

3. In **Romans 15:8-12** Paul traces God's plan through the Old Testament showing that people moved from watching, to being welcomed, to worshipping and then to finding hope – where would you place yourself in these categories?
- Who first helped you move from watching to personally trusting Jesus?
  - How can we as the Church help move people from watching to welcome and then to worshipping?
  - Why do you think belonging often opens the door to believing?
  - What role do you believe hospitality plays in God's mission? (consider Hebrews 13:1-2 and Romans 12:13)
4. In **Romans 15:13** where does genuine hope come from?
- How do you see trust, joy, peace, and hope connected in this verse?
  - How would you explain the difference between the hope we speak of and positive or wishful thinking?
  - How can a sense of hope be drained?
  - Can you share a time when God met you in the midst of a season where hope was difficult to cling to?
  - How can everyday conversations express the hope we have as Christians?
  - What would it look like for our hope to overflow in our workplace, Uni, neighbourhood, family or friends?
5. Read **Revelation 7:9–10**. John gives us a picture of people from every nation, tribe and language worshipping together. How should that vision shape the way we live as God's family today?

**Application:**

- *What is one barrier Jesus may want to break down in your heart right now?*
  - *Who needs help finding a sense of belonging in our Church or community?*
  - *What can you change that will help you make someone feel noticed, welcomed or valued this week?*
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