

The Life and Letters of Paul

Romans 15

1. **who are strong** Refers to believers who confidently trust that they no longer have to adhere to the religious rules they practiced before coming to Christ. Freedom in Christ clears their conscience (do you have beef with the religious church-why)

Romans 15:1-2/Romans 14:1- don't argue but be considerate/Galatians 6:2- share in burdens

2. **We should look at one another, faults and all as Christ did, he did not reject us for our infirmities, but he took our place.**

Romans 15:3-4/Luke 22:42- not my will but yours/2 Corinthians 5:21- he who had no sin/1 Peter 2:24-bore the sins

3. **When we work as the body of Christ, we are more effective for the kingdom of God as ambassadors. This is possible if God is the Source.**

Romans 15:5-6/Galatians 5:21-22- Holy spirit supplied/ Psalm 133-Harmony is wonderful.

4. **There are many reason we can come up with to not be on the same page with one another (and boy, do we ever) but here Paul urges both strong and weak, jew and Gentile to accept one another. We are not here because of what we did but because of what Christ did and what the holy Spirit is doing.**

Romans 15:7-12/Psalm 18:49(NKJV)-Praising God with unlikely people/Hosea 2:23- loving a people who are not us

5. **If God is the starting point for us as a body, then he will get the Glory (source, filled, trust)**

Romans 15:13/ Colossians 3:17- do it as a representative/ 2 Timothy 2:21(NKJV)- a vessel for honor

6. Paul speaking to a Church who was full of Goodness (high moral character) even in a Rome-governed culture, emphasized that to be mature was not enough but to be a part of maturing others. (do you pour into others)

Romans 15:14/ 1 Corinthians 14:3- if God has given you, you in turn give to others/
Colossians 2:2-knit together in Christ/ 2 Timothy 3:16-God's word given to teach and correct

7. What are the places and spaces where you find yourself sharing the good news, do these types of conversation only happen with certain people in certain circles?

Romans 15:20-22/ Isaiah 52:15- Paul's plan from scripture/

8. As a culture we are quick to leave something that "God called us to" because it is not rewarding or comfortable, here Paul explains his next steps are because "has finished his work.

Romans 15:23/2 Corinthians 8:11-finish what you started/Ecclesiastes 7:8-Finishing is better than starting.