

THE CHRISTIAN LIFE – UNITY IN THE BODY – PART 6

--ROMANS 15:7-13--

INTRODUCTION:

Last Sunday we started Romans 15 where Paul begins to wrap up his teaching on unity in the body by giving us two additional principles that relate to the importance of unity. We looked at the first principle last week in verses 1-6 and it concerned pleasing others and we do this by following Christ's example of pleasing His Father. Paul taught that as we show concern for one another then we will be of one mind according to Christ Jesus and the result will be to glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ with one unified voice.

This morning we will look at the second principle and again it has to do with glorifying God as we rejoice with one another for God's eternal plan of redemption for mankind provided through the Lord Jesus Christ.

I. UNITY FOR THE GLORY OF GOD (Romans 15:7)

- a. Paul begins this final section with the word "_____."
- b. He reiterates what he had written about beginning in verse 1 of chapter 14 and ties it with glorifying God that he had just written about in 15:6, bringing his teaching on _____ all together. (Matthew 10:40)
- c. Paul does not qualify this verse; it is not directed at one specific _____ of Christians.
- d. Jesus Christ is to be our _____ or the pattern that we follow in accepting one another. (Matthew 11:29; Ephesians 4:32–5:2)
- e. There are four ways in which Christ accepts sinners. First, Christ accepts sinners with great _____. (Luke 15:6-7)
- f. Second, Jesus accepts us for salvation even though we are _____. (Romans 5:8; 1 Timothy 1:15)
- g. Third, Jesus made it abundantly clear that He _____ sinners impartially. (John 6:37; Acts 10:34-35)
- h. Fourth, Jesus accepts sinners to the _____ of God. (Ephesians 1:5-6; Ephesians 3:20-21)

II. REJOICING IN GOD'S PLAN OF REDEMPTION (Romans 15:8-12)

- a. Paul understood that some of the _____ that existed in the church in Rome was due to the fact that some of the believers were Jewish and some were Gentile. (Romans 1:4-5; 1:16)
- b. Israel had failed to be a _____ to the nations as they were to be and instead separated themselves from the Gentiles and treated them with disdain. (Romans 3:29)
- c. Paul quotes from the Old Testament to show that this was God's plan from the beginning to bring both Jew and Gentile into His _____ through salvation. Psalm 18:49; Deuteronomy 32:43; Psalm 117:1; Isaiah 11:10)

III. ABOUNDING IN HOPE (Romans 15:13)

- a. In this final verse on the topic of unity Paul lifts his voice in _____ for the Body of Christ.
- b. Paul's prayer for us in this verse expresses his desire, his longing for all believers to experience the total _____ that is theirs in their Savior and Lord, Jesus Christ.

CONCLUSION:

Paul in this section in Romans has been instructing us on the unity that needs to exist in the body of Christ. Unity is extremely important to our Lord because He understands the joy and fellowship that comes through the oneness that He has with the Father and the Spirit. He desires that same joy and fellowship between His children, those who have come to Him in faith for salvation. The church is made up of people from all walks of life, but we all have one thing in common, we are all sinners saved by grace through the Lord Jesus Christ. Because of this we can have unity, and Paul has instructed how this is accomplished. We look past our diversity, we look past our spiritual maturity, we look past our race, our social status and our gender and we accept one another just as Christ also accepted us to the glory of God. We rejoice in our redemption; we rejoice with one voice to the glory of God. (Ephesians 4:1–3)