

Bearing One Another's Burdens

Romans 15:1-6

God makes it very clear that He is concerned about the unity of His church. Through Christ's atoning work on our behalf, we now have a union with him that affords us a connection that was not previously possible. Besides outright sin, there is little that destroys the spiritual growth, the fellowship, and the witness of a church as much as the lack of harmony between believers. Romans 15 helps us see how we are to bear the weaknesses of others and not just please ourselves. In so doing, we give honor and glory to the Lord.

Psalms 133:1— *Behold, how good and how pleasant it is For brothers to dwell together in unity!*

Zachariah 14:9—*And the LORD will be king over all the earth; in that day the LORD will be the only one, and His name the only one.*

John 17:11— *I am no longer in the world; and yet they themselves are in the world, and I come to You. Holy Father, keep them in Your name, the name which You have given Me, that they may be one even as We are.*

Acts 4:32, 34-35—*And the ¹²congregation of those who believed were of one heart and soul; and not one of them claimed that anything belonging to him was his own, but all things were common property to them.... For there was not a needy person among them, for all who were owners of land or houses would sell them and bring the proceeds of the sales ³⁵and lay them at the apostles' feet, and they would be distributed to each as any had need.*

Ephesians 4:2-3—*with all humility and gentleness, with patience, showing tolerance for one another in love, ³being diligent to preserve the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace.*

1 Corinthians 1:10—*Now I exhort you, brethren, by the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that you all agree and that there be no divisions among you, but that you be made complete in the same mind and in the same judgment.*

Colossians 3:11—*a renewal in which there is no distinction between Greek and Jew, circumcised and uncircumcised, barbarian, Scythian, slave and freeman, but Christ is all, and in all.*

1 Peter 3:8—*To sum up, all of you be harmonious, sympathetic, brotherly, kindhearted, and humble in spirit;*

Galatians 6:2—*Bear one another's burdens, and thereby fulfill the law of Christ.*

1 Corinthians 9:19-22—*For though I am free from all men, I have made myself a slave to all, so that I may win more. ²⁰To the Jews I became as a Jew, so that I might win Jews; to those who are under ^[a]the Law, as under the Law though not being myself under the Law, so that I might win those who are under the Law; ²¹to those who are without law, as without law, though not being without the law of God but under the law of Christ, so that I might win those who are without law. ²²To the weak I became weak, that I might win the weak; I have become all things to all men, so that I may by all means save some.*

Philippians 2:2-4—*make my joy complete by being of the same mind, maintaining the same love, united in spirit, intent on one purpose. ³Do nothing from selfishness or empty conceit, but with humility of mind regard one another as more important than yourselves; ⁴do not merely look out for your own personal interests, but also for the interests of others.*

6 ways to focus on pleasing one another as modeled in Christ

Romans 15:1-6— Now we who are strong ought to bear the weaknesses of those without strength and not just please ourselves. ²Each of us is to please his neighbor for his good, to his edification. ³For even Christ did not please Himself; but as it is written, "THE REPROACHES OF THOSE WHO REPROACHED YOU FELL ON ME." ⁴For 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 who gives perseverance and encouragement grant you to be of the same mind with one another according to Christ Jesus, ⁶so that with one accord you may with one voice glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ.

I. Bearing the weaknesses of the weak

Romans 15:1a—*Now we who are strong ought to bear the weaknesses of those without strength...*

II. Pleasing not simply yourself

Romans 15:1b-2—*...and not just please ourselves. Each of us is to please his neighbor for his good, to his edification.*

III. Looking to be like Christ

Romans 15:3—*For even Christ did not please Himself; but as it is written, "The reproaches of those who reproached You fell on Me."*

IV. Obeying the Scriptures

Romans 15:4—*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.*

V. Relying on God

Romans 15:5—*Now may the God who gives perseverance and encouragement grant you to be of the same mind with one another according to Christ Jesus*

VI. Bringing glory to God

Romans 15:6—*so that with one accord you may with one voice glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ.*

John 5:18—*For this reason therefore the Jews were seeking all the more to kill Him, because He not only was breaking the Sabbath, but also was calling God His own Father, making Himself equal with God.*

2 Corinthians 1:3—*Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of mercies and God of all comfort*

Ephesians 1:3—*Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places in Christ*