



A Worship Discussion Guide for Individuals, Groups & Families For the week of June 18, 2023

Read the Bible passage aloud in your group meeting. This is a worship discussion guide, and our reflections and applications are grounded in Scripture. You do not need to work through the whole guide. Decide which points would be most helpful for your meeting, and use them as a starting point for your time together.

Warm Up

- Describe one way you are involved/interested in the ministry of the church. What excites you about that ministry? What is challenging about that ministry?

Romans 15:1-33

Unity & Mission

In Romans 15, Paul describes several ministries that mark any faithful church:

- Serving (1-3)
- Education (4)
- Fellowship & Worship (5-7)
- Evangelism & Discipleship (8-24)
- Mercy (25-29)
- Prayer (30-32)

Let's look at each of these ministries.

Ministries of Serving & Education

¹We who are strong have an obligation to bear with the failings of the weak, and not to please ourselves. ²Let each of us please his neighbor for his good, to build him up. ³For Christ did not please himself, but as it is written, "The reproaches of those who reproached you fell on me." [Psalm 69:9] ⁴For 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.

- What does Paul see as foundational for all ministry? (1-3)
- What is His reason for this conviction? (3)
- What does Paul show us about the purpose of the Scripture? (3-4)

Ministries of Fellowship & Worship

⁵May the God of endurance and encouragement grant you to live in such harmony with one another, in accord with Christ Jesus, ⁶that together you may with one voice glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ. ⁷Therefore welcome one another as Christ has welcomed you, for the glory of God.

- What does Paul teach about the unity of Christians? What is the source of Christian harmony?

Ministries of Evangelism & Discipleship

⁸For I tell you that Christ became a servant to the circumcised to show God's truthfulness, in order to confirm the promises given to the patriarchs, ⁹and in order that the Gentiles might glorify God for his mercy. As it is written, "Therefore I will praise you among the Gentiles, and sing to your name." [II Samuel 22:50]

¹⁰And again it is said,

"Rejoice, O Gentiles, with his people." [Deuteronomy 32:43]

¹¹And again,

"Praise the Lord, all you Gentiles, and let all the peoples extol him." [Psalm 117:1]

¹²And again Isaiah says,

"The root of Jesse will come,
even he who arises to rule the Gentiles;
in him will the Gentiles hope." [Isaiah 11:1,10]

¹³ May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that by the power of the Holy Spirit you may abound in hope.

¹⁴ I myself am satisfied about you, my brothers, that you yourselves are full of goodness, filled with all knowledge and able to instruct one another. ¹⁵ But on some points I have written to you very boldly by way of reminder, because of the grace given me by God ¹⁶ to be a minister of Christ Jesus to the Gentiles in the priestly service of the gospel of God, so that the offering of the Gentiles may be acceptable, sanctified by the Holy Spirit. ¹⁷ In Christ Jesus, then, I have reason to be proud of my work for God. ¹⁸ For I will not venture to speak of anything except what Christ has accomplished through me to bring the Gentiles to obedience—by word and deed, ¹⁹ by the power of signs and wonders, by the power of the Spirit of God—so that from Jerusalem and all the way around to Illyricum I have fulfilled the ministry of the gospel of Christ; ²⁰ and thus I make it my ambition to preach the gospel, not where Christ has already been named, lest I build on someone else's foundation, ²¹ but as it is written,

"Those who have never been told of him will see,
and those who have never heard will understand." [Isaiah 52:15]

²² This is the reason why I have so often been hindered from coming to you. ²³ But now, since I no longer have any room for work in these regions, and since I have longed for many years to come to you, ²⁴ I hope to see you in passing as I go to Spain, and to be helped on my journey there by you, once I have enjoyed your company for a while.

- **For Paul, what things mark the ministry of the Gospel of Christ?**

Ministries of Mercy

²⁵ At present, however, I am going to Jerusalem bringing aid to the saints. ²⁶ For Macedonia and

Achaia have been pleased to make some contribution for the poor among the saints at Jerusalem. ²⁷ For they were pleased to do it, and indeed they owe it to them. For if the Gentiles have come to share in their spiritual blessings, they ought also to be of service to them in material blessings. ²⁸ When therefore I have completed this and have delivered to them what has been collected, I will leave for Spain by way of you. ²⁹ I know that when I come to you I will come in the fullness of the blessing of Christ.

- **How does Paul understand the relationship between the Christian and material blessings?**

Ministries of Prayer

³⁰ I appeal to you, brothers, by our Lord Jesus Christ and by the love of the Spirit, to strive together with me in your prayers to God on my behalf, ³¹ that I may be delivered from the unbelievers in Judea, and that my service for Jerusalem may be acceptable to the saints, ³² so that by God's will I may come to you with joy and be refreshed in your company. ³³ May the God of peace be with you all. Amen.

- **How does Paul understand the role of prayer with respect to his ministry?**
- **Remember Paul's list of church ministries:**
 - **Serving (1-3)**
 - **Education (4)**
 - **Fellowship & Worship (5-7)**
 - **Evangelism & Discipleship (8-24)**
 - **Mercy (25-29)**
 - **Prayer (30-32)**

In which would you most like to grow?

- **Pray together in light of this week's passage.**

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Questions? Contact Pastor Kevin Greene,
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