Sermon Questions

Unity in God's Body
Romans 15:1–7
Pastor Jeff Hinds

CONNECT:

- What/who do you consider to be your strongest support system?

GROW:

Read Romans 15:1-7

- Romans 15:1 tells us to "bear up the failings of the weak," meaning to encourage greater spiritual maturity. Who has done this for you in your life? In what ways can we do this for others?
- Can you name some secondary issues within the modern day church that people can divide over? Have you ever been affected by this?
- How would you explain the issues that are central to Christianity vs those that are gray areas?
- Many who hold secondary issues as primary are not meaning to be divisive and are sincere in their beliefs. What is the damage of handling the situation without grace or ignoring the error?

GO:

- Ask God to reveal any areas in your spiritual walk that may get in the way of unity with other believers. And also, how might you encourage someone who is struggling with a secondary issue which may cause disunity?

Sermon Notes

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1. God calls for His people to live in unity one with another (Romans 15:1, 5–7). This includes "bearing up" with legalists (the "weak"), which does not mean giving in to extra-Biblical scruples, but rather, standing firm against extra-Biblical scruples with tender love.

2. God calls for His people to show grace over secondary ("gray," non-Biblical) issues (Romans 14–15; Colossians 2:16–17).

3. God calls for His people to center on the essential truths of Christianity. These include:

- Divine inspiration of Scripture (2 Timothy 3:16–17; 2 Peter 1:21-22)
- Inerrancy of Scripture (John 17:17)
- Biblical canon of Scripture being 66 books
- Trinitarian theology (Matthew 28:18–20; John 1:1–14; Acts 5:3–4)
- Jesus being fully God and fully man (John 1:1, 14; Colossians 2:9)
- Total depravity of man and our need for Jesus' redemption (Romans 3:23; 1 John 1:8; Romans 10:9–10)
- Salvation in no one else but Jesus (John 3:16; 14:6; Romans 6:23; Ephesians 2:8–9)
- The physical return of Jesus for His people (1 Thessalonians 4:13–18; Matthew 24–25)
- Bodily resurrection of all (1 Corinthians 15)
- Eternal Heaven for the redeemed (John 14:1–6) (Revelation 21–22)
- Eternal Hell for the unredeemed (Revelation 20:11–15)
- God's morals and ethics (Exodus 20; 1 Corinthians 6; Galatians 5)

4. God calls for His people to warn legalists graciously to stop, several times, but then to eventually remove them from fellowship lest their legalism spread (Titus 3:10–11). The greater goal is to "bear up" and train, but if one remains in legalism, asking a person to leave may be needed.