

## The Family of the God of Hope | Romans 15:8–13

### The Heart of Christian Living (12:1–2)

*I appeal to you therefore, brothers and sisters, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship. Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that by testing you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect.*

### The Holistic Scope of Christian Living (12:3–15:7)

### The Hope of Christian Living (15:8–13)

#### 1. Family Resolutions (14:1–15:2)

<sup>15:1</sup>*We who are strong have an obligation to bear with the failing of the weak, and not to please ourselves. <sup>2</sup>Let each of us please his neighbor for his good, to build him up.*

#### 2. Family Resources (15:3–7)

<sup>3</sup>*For Christ did not please himself, but as it is written, “The reproaches of those who reproached you fell on me.” <sup>4</sup>For 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. <sup>5</sup>May the God of endurance and encouragement grant you to live in such harmony with one another, in accord with Christ Jesus, <sup>6</sup>that together you may with one voice glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ. <sup>7</sup>Therefore welcome one another as Christ has welcomed you, for the glory of God.*

#### 3. Family Returns (15:8–13)

##### a. Family Beholding: God’s Truthfulness in Christ (15:8)

Christ’s servanthood to Jews first confirms God’s promises to patriarchs about the Savior to come from their lineage <sup>8</sup>*For 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 ...*

##### b. Family Blessing: God’s Mercy in Christ to Incorporate Gentiles (15:9–12)

Christ’s servanthood to Jews first confirms God’s promises to patriarchs about Gentiles’ belonging to and blessing with God’s family | *BLESSED to belong, BELONGING to bless*

<sup>9</sup>... and 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.”

<sup>10</sup>And again it is said,

“Rejoice, O Gentiles, with his people.”

<sup>11</sup>And again,

“Praise the Lord, all you Gentiles, and let all the peoples extol him.”

<sup>12</sup>And again Isaiah says,

“The root of Jesse will come, even he who arises to rule the Gentiles; in him will the Gentiles hope.”

15:9—Psa 18:49/2 Sam 22:50

15:10—Deut 32:43 (Law)

15:11—Psa 117:1 (Writings)

15:12—Isa 11:10 (Prophets)

“the weak in faith” = less mature understanding of Scripture’s ethical teaching in light of Christ’s coming (here, mostly Jewish-background believers with perhaps some Gentile-background believers)

“the strong in faith” = more mature understanding of Scripture’s ethical teaching in light of Christ’s coming

(15:3) Experience & Example: God’s welcome, in Christ

(15:4) Encouragement: God’s Word

(15:5–6) Empowerment: God’s Spirit

(15:7) End: God’s glory

<sup>15:16</sup>*For I am not ashamed of the gospel, for it is the power of God for salvation to everyone who believes, to the Jew first and also to the Greek. <sup>17</sup>For in it the righteousness of God is revealed from faith for faith, as it is written, “The righteous shall live by faith.”*

##### c. Family Abounding: God’s Filling His Family with Hope in Christ (15:13)

*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.*

## The Goodness of God (CeCe Winans)

I love You, Lord  
For Your mercy never fails me  
All my days, I've been held in Your hands  
From the moment that I wake up  
Until I lay my head  
Oh, I will sing of the goodness of God

*'Cause all my life You have been faithful  
And all my life You have been so, so good  
With every breath that I am able  
Oh, I will sing of the goodness of God*

I love Your voice  
You have led me through the fire  
In darkest nights, You are close like no other  
I've known You as a Father  
I've known You as a Friend  
And I have lived in the goodness of God

*'Cause all my life You have been faithful  
And all my life You have been so, so good  
With every breath that I am able  
Oh, I will sing of the goodness of God*

*Your goodness is running after, it's running after me  
Your goodness is running after, it's running after me  
With my life laid down, I'm surrendered now  
I give You everything  
Your goodness is running after, it's running after me*

**Genesis 12 (Abraham)** | <sup>1</sup>Now the LORD said to Abram, "Go from your country and your kindred and your father's house to the land that I will show you. <sup>2</sup>And I will make of you a great nation, and I will bless you and make your name great, so that you will be a blessing. <sup>3</sup>I will bless those who bless you, and him who dishonors you I will curse, and in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed."

**Exodus 19 (Moses)** | <sup>5</sup>"Now therefore, if you will indeed obey my voice and keep my covenant, you shall be my treasured possession among all peoples, for all the earth is mine; <sup>6</sup>and you shall be to me a kingdom of priests and a holy nation.' ...

**2 Samuel 7 (David)** | <sup>11</sup>"... Moreover, the LORD declares to you that the LORD will make you a house. ... <sup>16</sup>And your house and your kingdom shall be made sure forever before me. Your throne shall be established forever."

<sup>11</sup>Paul, a servant of Christ Jesus, called to be an apostle, set apart for the gospel of God, <sup>2</sup>which he promised beforehand through his prophets in the holy Scriptures, <sup>3</sup>concerning **his Son, who was descended from David according to the flesh** <sup>4</sup>and was declared to be the Son of God in power according to the Spirit of holiness by his resurrection from the dead, Jesus Christ our Lord, <sup>5</sup>through whom we have received grace and apostleship to bring about the obedience of faith for the sake of his name among all the nations, <sup>6</sup>including you who are called to belong to Jesus Christ,

<sup>7</sup>To all those in Rome who are loved by God and called to be saints:

Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.