



HOPE AND HARMONY

Romans 15:1-7

Main Idea: To live together in hope and harmony, we must bear with and build up one another for unity in the Spirit.

As followers of Christ, we must follow the example of Christ and the instruction of the Word (1-4).

- We must have the strength to bear with one another (1).
- We must have the love to build one another up (2).

Paul has spent the entire last chapter talking about differences of opinions on matters that should not be allowed to be divisive. Now Paul turns his attention to how we are to make that a reality. Paul reminds us that living in hope and harmony begins by looking to Christ and learning from His Word. Jesus, though perfectly strong, did not live to please Himself—He bore our weaknesses and carried our reproach. In the same way, those who are spiritually strong are called to love, nurture, and build up those who are weaker in faith, much like spiritual parents caring for their children. Those who are spiritually strong have an obligation to help build up other believers. True strength in the church is shown not by asserting rights or freedoms, but by showing patience, compassion, and grace. God's Word gives us the endurance, encouragement, and hope needed to walk beside others and help them grow. Harmony doesn't happen by accident; it grows when mature believers take responsibility to bear with and build up others in love, following the example of Christ.

Discussion Questions:

1. What does it look like for a strong believer to act as a "spiritual parent" to someone weaker in faith?
2. How does Christ's example shape the way we use our strength in relationships with others?
3. Why is it often difficult to bear with the weaknesses of others? What helps you to do it?
4. How does Scripture provide the endurance and encouragement needed to love and build others up?



5. Who has played a “spiritual parent” role in your life, and how did that help you grow in your walk with Christ?

As followers of Christ, we must have unity of the Spirit (5-7).

- *We must glorify God with one voice (6).*
- *We must welcome others as Christ welcomed us (7).*

Paul calls believers to live in harmony with one another through the power of the Spirit. This unity is not something we manufacture by effort—it is a gift from God that grows as we align our hearts with His will. When the Spirit shapes our relationships, we can glorify God with one voice sharing the same purpose and faith. Worship of God is the natural by-product of unity through the Spirit. And true worship of God by his people is one of the greatest testimonies to who He is and what he has done in our lives. Another part of this unity is learning to welcome others as Christ has welcomed us, receiving them with grace, patience, and acceptance. Just as Christ embraced us when we were undeserving, we are called to create an environment of support, and love in our Faith Family. We must remember that we did not start where we are now, but God, through the Faith Family has grown us to where we are today. There were people who bore with us, and built us up. They held out hope and pointed us toward harmony in the Spirit. This hope and harmony reflects God’s glory and strengthens the church as a whole.

Discussion Questions:

1. What does “living in harmony with one another” look like in everyday church life or small groups?
2. How can we glorify God with “one voice” while sometimes holding differences in background, gifts, and perspectives?
3. Why is it important to welcome others as Christ welcomed us? How does this affect unity?
4. What role does the Spirit play in helping believers maintain unity and harmony?
5. Can you share a time when you experienced the church living in Spirit-led unity? What was the result?