

**ROMANS 15:1-13 DWELLING TOGETHER IN UNITY**  
**Psalms 133:1, John 17:11**

We are in the last theological section of the book of Romans. It is dealing with Christian unity. This whole section has been talking about strong Christians and weak Christians and how they are to treat each other. The strong are to be ready to give up their Christian liberty for the weaker because it is essential that the body of Christ be in unity. This is what Jesus prayed for in the intercessory prayer for the apostles and the whole body of Christ in John 17:11.

There are two principles in this section for obtaining unity. They are pleasing others and rejoicing with them.

**1. PLEASING ONE ANOTHER 15:1-6**

**A. BEARING THE WEAKNESSES 1**

1. *Ought*-owing a debt, having an obligation

1 John 3:16, 4:11

All believers have the responsibility to please others. The strong, especially, have that responsibility.

2. *Bear*—to carry a burden

We are to carry the weak not just to put up with them. We don't want to criticize them and make them feel less than us. We are to respect them despite their views that we may disagree with. This is genuine love for other believers who may be very sensitive about a certain issue. Mature believers have to sometimes refrain from using their liberties.

Acts 15:10, Phil 2:3-4

We are not to compromise the gospel, ever, but that is not the issue here. This is talking about giving up liberties when it is called for, for the sake of others.

3. *Without strength*-

These are the ones who might have their consciences offended.

1 Cor 9:19-22

**B. NOT JUST PLEASING OURSELVES 1-2**

1. Not regarding self

We don't have freedoms from God so we can enjoy them for ourselves. Those freedoms are to benefit the whole church.

We all have the same freedoms but because there are different levels of understanding and maturity we have to be careful not to cause one to stumble for the exercise of our liberties. It is not about us. It is about the idea of our giving ourselves up like Christ did.

Phil 2:21 These had concern about their own interests and not so much about anybody else.

2. Pleasing our neighbor

Phil 2:2-5

**C. THE EXAMPLE OF CHRIST 3**

1. The perfect attitude

Christ did not come to earth to please Himself. It was to please

the Father. In turn it was for us.

Phil 2:6-8

2. The will of the Father

The ultimate purpose of Christ was that He do the will of the Father.

John 5:18,30, Hebrews 3:1-2

3. The O.T. support ---

Psalms 69 is one of the greatest Messianic psalms. Seven of the verses are directly quoted in the N.T. If we see Jesus in this Psalm, we will see that He gave Himself up for others.

Ps 69---Enemies-v4, Brothers v 8, A joke v11, Rulers v 12

Drunkards v 12

4. A lifetime of insults

All His life, Jesus had to take insults from our fellow man. He bore the worst of abuses in order to please the Father.

John 8:41, Jn 1:46, Jn 7:41,52, Mark 3:21,12:47, Mt 12:24

Mt 27:40-44

If we seek to please the Father, we too run the risk of taking abuse from people.

D. THE ENCOURAGEMENT OF THE SCRIPTURES v 4

1 Cor 10:6,11

1. Perseverance (Hupomeno)

Our part in this blessing is to persevere. It is like patience and it is commanded and also given to us by God.

Joseph from the O.T. was a great example of that.

2. Encouragement and hope Ps 105:1, 16-22

God gives us encouragement to persevere. He does this by His Word.

This gives us the reasons to keep on believing which gives us hope for our future. We have hope in the living Word because of the written Word.

E. DEPENDENCE ON GOD'S POWER 5

We are able to do His commands because He gives us His sovereign Grace. We are to rely on His power through prayer.

F. TO GOD BE THE GLORY 6

The whole idea behind pleasing others is something of more importance.

That is to please the Lord. We are to do that individually and corporately.

When we worship Him with one accord and one voice, this is accomplished.

This is how we give Him glory.

**2. REJOICING WITH ONE ANOTHER 15:7-13**

We are to rejoice together because we commonly share the eternal plan of redemption.

A. ACCEPT ONE ANOTHER 7

All believers are to accept each other. To accept one another is to accept Christ Himself. Mt 10:40—He who receives you receives me, and he who receives me receives Him who sent me.

Proslambano—receiving someone with a special concern, to welcome one Philemon 17 Christ's example—Luke 15:2

1. Joyously, Luke 15:3-7 2. Sinners, Rom 5:8 3. No partiality

To glory of God—Eph 1:5-6 As Christ has made known the glory of the Father in receiving us all into His grace when we stood in need of mercy, so we ought to establish and confirm this union which we have in Christ, in order to make known also the glory of God.” John Calvin

## B. JEWS AND GENTILES TOGETHER

8-13

It was always God's plan to bring Gentile and Jew into the Kingdom. These are two different peoples who had hated each other. But now in light of the magnificent, glorious gracious, sovereign plan of God, Jews are to joyously accept Gentiles because God called the Jews to reach Gentiles for the glory of God. The gentiles can no longer have grudges against the Jews because they brought the Word of God.

1. Jews praise God for His promises

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2. Gentiles praise God for His mercy

9-12

Ps 18:49, Deut 32:43, Ps 117:1, Isa 11:10

## C. PAUL'S PRAYER

He wants them to have spiritual satisfaction in the Savior. This prayer is for believers to experience the peace, hope, and love and power of the Holy Spirit who makes us one in Christ.

Phil 4:7, 1 Pet 1:3,8