

Romans 15

Verse by Verse



Previously in Romans

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- Throughout **Romans 12 – 16**, Paul describes **right conduct**.
- Right belief needs to lead to right behavior.
- In **Romans 15**, we saw the importance of unity among Christians who hold different views on minor issues.

Romans 15 Introduction

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- This chapter starts with Paul's conclusion on that topic of unity among believers.
- He then moves toward the conclusion of this letter by covering more personal things.

Romans 15 Key Verse

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- Romans 15:4 (ESV)

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.

Romans 15 Outline

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1. The Example of Christ 15:1-7
2. Our Hope in Christ 15:8-13
3. Paul's Ministry 15:14-21
4. Paul's Plans 15:22-33

1. The Example of Christ 15:1-7

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- Paul uses some serious theology for a very practical purpose.
- His appeal to us is not based on any sentimental ideas of trying to get along.
- He rather goes straight to the example of what Christ endured on the cross.

1. The Example of Christ 15:1-7

- It is a love like Christ's that brings the deepest unity.
- Further, it brings the highest form of praise and glory to God.
- The idea is that every imaginable type of follower of Christ can unite in a perfect harmony of worship.

1. The Example of Christ 15:1-7



Paul does not require absolute uniformity of thinking, as if Christians need to be clones ... Rather, he refers to a unity in spirit and attitude ... that creates a loving context for the differences that inevitably exist among believers ...

*– Douglas Moo,
Wheaton Graduate School*

1. The Example of Christ 15:1-7



It is when we exhibit this kind of united spirit that the church is able to praise God as he desires to be praised (v. 6). God is especially honored when his people unite, “with one mind and one voice,” in their worship of him.

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1. The Example of Christ 15:1-7

- Sometimes I think we don't take this unity seriously enough because don't quite understand it.
- We may think it is based on a gushy "just be nice to everyone" mentality.
- Paul has shown us that is not true.
- It is based on Christ's sacrifice on the cross for us all.

1. The Example of Christ 15:1-7

- We may also think that allowing for different views on minor things is a way of avoiding some harder truth.
- The hard truth, however, is what we have seen in the last chapter and now this one.
- We need to build one another up despite our differences.
- This is what brings the greatest praise to God.

2. Our Hope in Christ 15:8-13

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- Referring back to **Deuteronomy, Psalms** and **Isaiah**, Paul ties his teaching solidly into Old Testament texts.
- He reassures the Jews and educates the Gentiles regarding the origins of the gospel.
- To get the whole gospel, it takes the whole Bible.

2. Our Hope in Christ 15:8-13

- At this point we can apply our key verse, which came in the previous section.
- **Romans 15:4** (ESV)

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.

2. Our Hope in Christ 15:8-13

- While Paul was busy writing much of the **New Testament**, he was using the **Old Testament**.
- That was the only Bible that the earliest church had.
- And all those things were written for us as well.

3. Paul's Ministry 15:14-21

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- Paul can be very satisfied with his ministry.
- He was called to take the gospel to the nations – the various Gentile people groups.
- He did so with zeal and perseverance.

3. Paul's Ministry 15:14-21

- 15:15-17 The Gentile churches – former pagans now trusting in Christ – were his offering to the Lord.
- This was what Christ had accomplished through him.
- 15:18 Paul did the work, but he knows Christ was working in and through him behind the scenes.
- The same is true of anything good that we accomplish for God.

3. Paul's Ministry 15:14-21

- This is a good place to remind ourselves of a couple of good memory verses.
- **Philippians 1:6** (ESV)

And I am sure of this, that he who began a good work in you will bring it to completion at the day of Jesus Christ.

3. Paul's Ministry 15:14-21

- This is a good place to remind ourselves of a couple of good memory verses.
- **Ephesians 2:8-10** (ESV)

⁸ For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, ⁹ not a result of works, so that no one may boast. ¹⁰ For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them.

3. Paul's Ministry 15:14-21

- 15:19-20 The gospel – and Paul – began in Jerusalem.
- Through Paul the gospel made it all the way to Illyricum, across the Adriatic from Italy.
- He now wants to see Rome and he is going to tell that church of his plans in our final section.

4. Paul's Plans 15:22-33

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- Paul is done with his church planting ministry in the Eastern Mediterranean.
- Now he desires to go as far as **Spain** – on the other end of the Mediterranean world.
- He sees **Rome** as a base for further ministry – much like **Antioch** when he and Barnabas first went out.

4. Paul's Plans 15:22-33

- It is not clear whether Paul got to **Spain**, though he did make it to **Rome** as a prisoner. (See **Acts 28**)
- That was the result of the planned trip to **Jerusalem** that he mentions here (**15:25-28**).
- This was to take an offering from the Greek churches of **Macedonia** and **Achaia**.

4. Paul's Plans 15:22-33

- Lessons we can learn from this passage:
 1. Giving to Christian missions is as old as the Christian church. Let's not stop now.
 2. Life and ministry involve planning, but our plans must be submitted to God.
 3. Prayer is one component of ministry and prayer for those in ministry is an important type of prayer.

Romans 15 What We Just Read

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Romans 15 Key Points

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1. Christ did not come to please himself; we can aim to please others for the sake of unity in the church.
2. It takes two Testaments to tell the whole story of the Bible. Don't neglect to read the whole thing.
3. Much of what God does he does through us.
4. That means that whatever good we accomplish is really all thanks to him.

Romans 15 Key Points

5. Giving to Christian missions is as old as the Christian church. Let's not stop now.
6. Life and ministry involve planning, but our plans must be submitted to God.
7. Prayer is one component of ministry and prayer for those in ministry is an important type of prayer.

Romans 15 A Prayer

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- Our Father in heaven,
- We thank you for Christ's sacrifice on the cross. Without him we would be completely lost in our sins. Help us to follow his example and not live for ourselves but for the good of others.
- We thank you also for the whole Bible, how it is put together and how it is all connected. Help us to appreciate each one of the sixty-six books you have given us – and to see how they all point to Christ.

Romans 15 A Prayer

- We ask also that you would work through us individually and as a church. Fill us with your Holy Spirit's power and give us insight into how you desire to use us in accomplishing your will.
- Help us to be faithful and effective in supporting the ministries you have connected us with. And show us how to support these ministries, whether by giving time and effort, giving financially and/or through prayer.

Romans 15 A Prayer

- Finally, make us a church that is full of prayer and give us the privilege of being blessed by your answers to the prayers that we offer up.
- In Christ,
- Amen

Romans 15 References

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