

Harmony in Mission – Romans 15



MEMORY VERSE: May the God of endurance and encouragement grant you to live in such harmony with one another, in accord with Christ Jesus, that together you may with one voice glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ. Romans 15:5-6

DAY 1 ROMANS 15:1-7 — Following Christ's Example

1. What did Paul mean by “strong” and “weak” believers? vv.1; 14:1-2
2. What are the “strong” obligated to do? What does this look like? vv.1-2
3. Why is Jesus Christ the perfect example of bearing with others? vv.3-7
4. Define “endurance” and “encouragement” as Paul used them here.
5. What purpose does harmony in the body of Christ serve?

John 17:20-23

DAY 2 ROMANS 15:8-13 — Christ Confirms the Promises

6. How and why did Christ become a “servant to the circumcised” (Jews)? vv.8-9
7. What point did Paul make in quoting the Old Testament passages? vv.9-11

LEARN THE TRUTH

Our purpose is to glorify God, and a key to this is living in harmony with other believers. Paul continually exhorted believers to be “like minded” in our hope in Christ! It begins with bearing with each other, encouraging others, and pursuing unity. Look for opportunities to promote harmony in Christ!

8. Why will the Gentiles (non-Jews) have hope when the “root of Jesse” (Jesus) comes? v.12

Acts 3:25-26

Romans 3:28-30

9. What will God give those who believe? v.13

10. How do you think hope is connected to joy and peace? v.13

DAY 3 ROMANS 15:14-21 — God’s Holy Purpose

11. What did Paul praise the Romans for? v.14

12. Why did Paul write “very boldly” about some points to the Roman believers? vv.15-16

13. How might his bold speech have been related to his concern about the strong and weak in faith?

14. Describe Paul’s ministry to the Gentiles and tell why each served to accomplish God’s purpose.
Source of power- vv.16-19

Goal for the Gentiles- vv.16-18, 21

Ambition or method- v.18-21

15. Paul knew God’s holy purpose for him. (Galatians 1:11-16) Do you sense God’s calling on your life?

DAY 4 ROMANS 15:22-27 — Paul’s Desire to Visit Rome

16. What is the reason Paul had not yet visited Rome, but now planned to do so? vv.22-23

17. Why did he long to see the Roman believers? Romans 1:11-15

18. What else did Paul hope to accomplish in Rome and his travels? vv.24-27

19. Paul emphasized love, unity and harmony (13:8; 14:7; 15:5). How and why did the Gentile believers in Macedonia and Achaia live this out for the needy Jews in Jerusalem? vv.26-27

20. What evidence do you see today of this kind of harmony in mission?

DAY 5 ROMANS 15:28-33 – Plans and Purpose

21. How did Paul envision his upcoming ministry in Jerusalem and beyond? vv.28-29

22. How did his plan work out in Jerusalem? Acts 21:27-36

23. While Paul couldn't have known what lay ahead, what did he ask of the Roman believers? vv.30

24. Paul eventually made it back to Rome, but as a prisoner, where he wrote Ephesians, Philippians, and Colossians. What does this tell you about the difference between plans and purpose/

25. Glance back at chapters 12-15. What attitudes and actions result in effective ministry for God?

LOVE THE TRUTH

God welcomes all who will come to Him in faith. When we have harmony with other believers, God can accomplish much through us as we serve Him together. If Paul needed prayer and refreshment, we certainly do too. Pray for those who lead and serve you. Think of ways to refresh others to God's glory.

Romans 15

Harmony in Mission

Our purpose as believers is to bring glory to God and one way this happens is when those who are strong bear with the failings of the weak. The Greek word for “strong” means “those who are able,” and “weak” refers to “those who are unable.” Bearing with the failings of the weak involves more than just being patient and overlooking their lack of understanding. It means letting setting aside our desire to please ourselves, and instead building the weak one up for their own good. It does not mean being nice and agreeable, but rather just and truthful and welcoming. We are obligated to do this because Christ welcomed each one of us when we were new to faith in Him. He made us able! When we share in another’s journey, pointing them to Christ in Scripture, reminding them that the Holy Spirit guides them into ever-deepening faith, they are enabled to glorify God in their own walk. They understand that, “it is God who works in you, both to will and to work for His good pleasure.” (Philippians 2:13) When the strong encourage the weak, the result is harmony and an abundance of mature believers!

Paul was an exceptional Jew who, until he met Christ, hated the movement of Christ and persecuted the church. (Acts 22). Yet God set him apart, before he was even born, to preach Jesus to the Gentiles. (Galatians 1:15) Paul knew God’s law and covenant with Israel but also knew that Jesus was the fulfillment of the law. He brought the new covenant- salvation through faith in Christ and His broken body and shed blood for sin. (John 3:16, Luke 22:19-20) He understood the desire to obey the law, but also that Gentiles had no history with God’s law. No wonder he cared so much about bearing with one another and having harmony in the church, a mix of Jewish and Gentile believers. Anyone new to the faith could be weak. The Jew could struggle with the idea that they were no longer under the law because of Christ. The Gentile had no experience with the law, but might feel pressured to come under the

law. The answer lies in Jews and Gentiles uniting in faith, rejoicing in God together.

Paul understood God’s calling on his life. He knew his purpose and was determined to share Christ with all who would listen. His ambition was that “those who have never been told of Jesus will see, and those who have never heard will understand.” v.21 Paul had a really good plan for fulfilling his purpose, but God had a much different plan. Acts 22-28 gives the account of his arrest, the plot to kill him, and a shipwreck enroute to Rome. Paul witnessed for God while shipwrecked and in chains. He reached more people than he ever could have in his original plan.

WALK IN TRUTH



Do you realize that your purpose in life is to know God and glorify Father of our Lord Jesus Christ? God has gifted each of us differently so we can fulfill His purpose. The problem in discovering our unique calling is that we tend to think it is all about “us,” and God’s wonderful plan for “us.” But it is actually all about Him. This is why we must stop aiming to please ourselves and start living in harmony with other believers, bearing with those who are young or weak in their faith. We naturally make plans in hopes of fulfilling His mission, but we must hold those plans loosely. The truth is, we can’t think big enough! Think of the millions of people through history whose lives have been changed because of Paul’s story, influence and especially the epistles he wrote while in prison in Rome (Ephesians, Philippians and Colossians). His heartfelt plan couldn’t hold a candle to God’s perfect plan. Start by loving other believers, working to help the weak and unite the body of Christ. Ask God to lead you to HIS plan that you might glorify Him.