



the POWER of ONENESS

Series: The Power of Oneness
**Title: Unity, the Local Church,
and the Glory of God**

Text: Romans 15:1-7
Date: Feb. 4, 2024

What is your purpose as the church?

Ephesians 3:20–21 Now to Him who is able to do far more abundantly beyond all that we ask or think, according to the power that works within us, to Him be the glory in the church and in Christ Jesus to all generations forever and ever. Amen.

Three Ways Church Unity Should Glorify God (Romans 15:1-7):

Romans 15:1–7 Now we who are strong ought to bear the weaknesses of those without strength and not *just* please ourselves. Each of us is to please his neighbor for his good, to his edification. For even Christ did not please Himself; but as it is written, “The reproaches of those who reproached You fell on Me.” For whatever was written in earlier times was written for our instruction, so that through perseverance and the encouragement of the Scriptures we might have hope. Now may the God who gives perseverance and encouragement grant you to be of the same mind with one another according to Christ Jesus, so that with one accord you may with one voice glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ. Therefore, accept one another, just as Christ also accepted us to the glory of God.

1. **Glorify God by pleasing one another, despite your differences, for their _____ (v.1-4).**

Romans 15:1 Now we who are strong ought to bear the weaknesses of those without strength and not just please ourselves.

“Now we who are strong” – those who are able in their faith to do something (Romans 14:1-4).

“ought” – to owe or be obligated to.

Romans 13:8 owe nothing to anyone except to love one another.

“bear” –

“weaknesses of those without strength” – lit. not strong and not able (Romans 14:1-4).

Application: do not cast the convictions of other believers off as unimportant or as not your responsibility but _____ them out of love.

“and not just please ourselves”

“please” – to act for good or pleasure, to satisfy.

Romans 15:2 Each of us is to please his neighbor for his good, to his edification.

Pleasing other believers: meeting or fulfilling the spiritual needs, standards, and good of other believers.

“neighbor” - 5x in all Paul’s epistles; 3x here in Romans.

“edification” – building up

1 Corinthians 8:1 Now concerning things sacrificed to idols, we know that we all have knowledge. Knowledge makes arrogant, but love edifies.

Application: believers are called to live for the building up of one another’s faith out of _____.

Romans 15:3 For even Christ did not please Himself; but as it is written, “The reproaches of those who reproached You fell on Me.”

Messianic reference: Psalm 69:9 “The reproaches of those who reproached You fell on Me.”

What is the purpose of this Psalms quotation?

- To show how Jesus willingly experienced the abuses and insults of men to please His Father’s will so that sinners would be saved.
- Jesus sacrificed greatly for the pleasure of His Father.

Application: forsake all reasons, feelings, and excuses you have that keep you from pleasing your neighbors, for Christ appealed to and held on to none to please the Father.

Application: pleasing one another for their edification requires self-_____, just like Jesus did.

Romans 15:4 For whatever was written in earlier times was written for our instruction, so that through perseverance and the encouragement of the Scriptures we might have hope.

“perseverance” – endure with patience or bear up under.

Perseverance: remaining _____ and not faltering under hardship.

“encouragement” – communicating truth with the purpose of bringing help and comfort.

Encouragement: calling people to see the words of truth that will _____ their souls.

“we might have hope” – to have favorable and confident expectation; element of certainty.

Application: Scripture provides the perseverance and encouragement we need to have hope in the words of God that keep us living in obedience despite difficulty around us.

2. **Glorify God through being of the _____ with believers who are different than you (v.5-6).**

Romans 15:5 Now may the God who gives perseverance and encouragement grant you to be of the same mind with one another according to Christ Jesus

“grant” –

“to be of the same mind” – sameness of or agreement in thinking.

“according to Christ Jesus”

Sameness of mind: to be united and identical in our thinking about Jesus, thus with each other.

Romans 12:16 Be of the same mind toward one another...

2 Corinthians 13:11 Finally, brethren, rejoice, be made complete, be comforted, be like-minded...

Application: pursue oneness of mind by loving and believing the truth of _____ together.

Romans 15:6 so that with one accord you may with one voice glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ.

“with one accord” – lit. same mind; unanimously

“with one voice” – lit. with one mouth

“glorify” – ascribe/exalt which is true and great about God.

Application: sameness of mind is both an object of God’s glory and an agent of His glory in the church.

3. Glorify God in accepting one another just as Christ _____ us (v.7).

Romans 15:7 Therefore, accept one another, just as Christ also accepted us to the glory of God.

“accept”- to take or receive to oneself (Rom. 14:1,3).

Philemon 15–17 For perhaps he was for this reason separated *from you* for a while, that you would have him back forever, no longer as a slave, but more than a slave, a beloved brother, especially to me, but how much more to you, both in the flesh and in the Lord. If then you regard me a partner, accept him as *you would* me.

“just as” – in the same manner as; comparison clause

“Christ also accepted us” – again, Christ is our example.

“to the glory of God”

Application: think of how Christ accepted you into His family and communion with God, then do the same for other believers, accept them for the _____ of God.

Discussion Questions:

1. Keeping in mind the context around Romans 15:1-3, what does it mean to “please our neighbor to his good, for his edification?” Have you ever failed or succeeded in doing this? From the text, what things do you believe are important to pleasing other believers in areas of conscience and convictions?
2. Does being of the same mind, detailed in v.6-7, give God glory, or enable the church to bring God glory? Or both? Where does oneness of mind come from? Why is this important in a church?
3. Describe in v.7 how Jesus accepted us to the glory of God. From His example, what do we learn about accepting one another in our local body? How does accepting one another glorify God?
4. Where can you grow in the areas of edification, sameness of mind, and accepting one another at EastPointe? Are there areas from Romans 15:1-7 you believe our church needs to grow in together?

Blanks: edification, carry, love, sacrifice, steadfast, help, same mind, Jesus, accepted, glory

DINNER, *Fellowship* & PRAYER



February 18 | 5:30 - 7:30

Main dish provided. Sign-up to bring a side dish, dessert or drink.

*read the weekly
announcements
scan code*

