

**Romans 15:1** *We then who are strong ought to bear with the scruples of the weak, and not to please ourselves.*

The weak referred to here are those who have not experienced their liberty from Christ finished works. Those that are strong are the ones who are born again that understand they do not relate to God based off their actions or effort.

There are many babes or infants in the body of Christ that are on milk and have not moved to solid food (Heb 5:13-14). We should still be considerate of those who have not move onto meat.

**Romans 15:2** *Let each of us please his neighbor for his good, leading to edification.*

Many of Paul's letters conclude with speaking of unity amongst others. God's kind of love seeks the betterment of another over our own. This is still going in context with Paul's message from chapter fourteen of not judging the weaker brethren but making sure we are not a stumbling block to them.

The Greek word for edification is oikodomē and means to build up. We can build one another up by being mindful of our brothers and sisters.

**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."*

This is a quotation taken from Psalm 69:9.

The ultimate picture of selflessness is Jesus. Jesus was found in the appearance as a man and He humbled Himself and became obedient to the point of death, even death of the cross (Phil 2:8). Jesus stripped Himself of His Godly attributes to put others needs above His own.

In context it is not about us but we need to be considerate of the weaker brethren.

**Romans 15:4** *For whatever things were written before were written for our learning, that we through the patience and comfort of the Scriptures might have hope.*

The things written in the Old Covenant were not written for us to follow all the Jewish customs, rather than were written for our learning. The Old Testament was recorded so we can appreciate the covenant we are now under. We are in a better covenant established on better promises (Heb 8:6) free from all the rules and regulations of the law.

God does not use trails to develop patience within His children. Romans 5:3 and James 1:3 are scriptures commonly used to say tribulation helps make us more patient. This is not true. Trails cause us to draw out what we already have and exercise our faith muscles. Trails are from the enemy but as we use what we have it is nothing more than an open door for promotion and time to bring glory to the Father.

Patience comes through the scriptures and is a part of our born-again package (Gal 5:22). If we have lost hope then we have removed ourselves away from the Word. The only way the enemy can get us to the point of suicide is to get our attention off the scriptures and into the circumstance.

**Romans 15:5** *Now may the God of patience and comfort grant you to be like-minded toward one another, according to Christ Jesus,*

As believers we should be like minded and agree on more than we disagree on. We should have the same way of thinking or mindset as Jesus had towards others (Phil 2:4, Jn 3:17).

**Romans 15:6** *that you may with one mind and one mouth glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ.*

God's thoughts and words should be ours (Col 3:2, Eph 5:1). We should think the same and speak the same since we are of one body (1 Cor 12:13). Jesus said He only spoke what His Father taught Him (Jn 8:28).

**Romans 15:7** *Therefore receive one another, just as Christ also received us, to the glory of God.*

God receives us in spite of our shortcomings, therefore we should receive others. No one has fully arrived in the fullness of revelation of what grace has offered.

**Romans 15:8** *Now I say that Jesus Christ has become a servant to the circumcision for the truth of God, to confirm the promises made to the fathers,*

The circumcision is referring to the Jews. Jesus came to His own even though they did not receive Him (Jn 1:11). The promise God made to the children of Israel was still in effect and He did not completely do away with the Jews.

Jesus did not come to be served but to serve (Mark 10:45). Leadership starts with serving. The early church understood what it meant to be a servant and identified with servanthood as their position. Paul mentions he was a bondservant (Rom 1:1) and James also says he was a bondservant (James 1:1).

**Romans 15:9** *and that the Gentiles might glorify God for His mercy, as it is written: "for this reason I will confess to you among the Gentiles, and sing to your name."*

Jesus was Savior to the Jews and also to the Gentiles. God so loved the world that He died for all not just a few (Jn 3:16).

**Romans 15:10** *And again he says: "rejoice, O Gentiles, with His people!"*

This is a quotation from Deuteronomy 32:43.

The Gentiles now have something to rejoice over now that salvation has been offered to all. Sara was barren and without child, but now she can shout because the desolate has brought forth more children (Gal 4:27).

**Romans 15:11 *And again: "Praise the Lord, all you Gentiles! Laud Him, all you peoples!"***

This is a quotation from Psalm 117:1.

The Gentiles were strangers and foreigners but now they are fellow citizens and of the same household as the Jews (Eph 2:19).

**Romans 15:12 *And again, Isaiah says: "there shall be a root of Jesse; and he who shall rise to reign over the Gentiles, in Him the Gentiles shall hope."***

This scripture is taken from Isaiah 11:1,10.

Salvation has been offered to all (Titus 2:11) and Paul uses these last three Old Testament Scriptures to verify.

**Romans 15:13 *Now may the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.***

The only hope any of us have in a fallen world is in God and the good news of what Jesus accomplished on our behalf. This verse says we abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit. It takes the Holy Spirit to make the scriptures come alive and an active relationship with Him to have a victorious life.

The word abound in Greek is perisseuo and means to exceed, excel, and increase. We can increase in hope through the Holy Spirit.

**Romans 15:14 *Now I myself am confident concerning you, my brethren, that you also are full of goodness, filled with all knowledge, able also to admonish one another.***

How are these believers filled with goodness and all knowledge? God was indwelling them and He brought the fullness of Him (Col 2:10). We have the mind of Christ and unction from the Holy one and know all things (1 Cor 2:19, 1 John 2:20) and God Himself is good and dwells in us. This is how we are able to admonish one another.

The Greek word for admonish is noutheteo and means to reprove gently or warn. We are to speak the truth but in love (Eph 4:15).

**Romans 15:15 *Nevertheless, brethren, I have written more boldly to you on some points, as reminding you, because of the grace given to me by God,***

Remembrance is a powerful force. Peter said twice in his second letter that we can be stirred up by way of remembrance (2 Peter 1:13, 3:1:). Grace is always a gift and given from God apart

from self-effort. Grace is God's ability to do what we could not do in our own strength and ability.

**Romans 15:16** *that I might be a minister of Jesus Christ to the Gentiles, ministering the gospel of God, that the offering of the Gentiles might be acceptable, sanctified by the Holy Spirit.*

Paul was specifically called to minister to the Gentiles (Rom 11:13). The gospel or good news that Paul preached was that Christ paid it all, you pay nothing to be accepted by God just receive Christ payment on your behalf and you are saved.

**Romans 15:17** *Therefore I have reason to glory in Christ Jesus in the things which pertain to God.*

Paul gloried in Jesus not his own works or achievements. His heart was to know Christ and the power of His resurrection (Phil 3:10).

**Romans 15:18** *For I will not dare to speak of any of those things which Christ has not accomplished through me, in word and deed, to make the Gentiles obedient—*

Paul was no longer alive to himself. He was dead to himself and allowed who he was in Christ to live through him (Gal 2:20).

**Romans 15:19** *in mighty signs and wonders, by the power of the Spirit of God, so that from Jerusalem and round about to Illyricum I have fully preached the gospel of Christ.*

Paul cast a spirit of deviation out of a girl, he rose someone from the dead, was set free from prison by an earth quake and did many other things but this was all by the Spirit of God through Paul. Paul had nothing to boast in but Christ because it was Him that did that work, Paul was just the vessel.

**Romans 15:20** *And so I have made it my aim to preach the gospel, not where Christ was named, lest I should build on another man's foundation,*

Paul was single in vision and did not let anything stop him from fulfilling the call of God over his life. Peter was called to reach the Jews but Paul's aim was to spread the Gospel in areas where it was not heard amongst the Gentiles (Acts 1:13).

**Romans 15:21** *but as it is written: "to whom he was not announced, they shall see; and those who have heard shall understand."*

This is a quotation from Isaiah 52:15.

**Romans 15:22** *For this reason I also have been much hindered from coming to you.*

Paul had plans to visit Rome but was preaching the gospel reaching unreached territories that had not heard it yet. Paul spread the gospel all throughout Asia and anywhere he went it was his heart to preach the good news. Four of Paul's letters were actually written from prison. This shows that anywhere Paul was placed, he was an opportunistic and was always ready to speak the Good News.

**Romans 15:23 *But now no longer having a place in these parts, and having a great desire these many years to come to you,***

Paul had never personally visited Rome and had not met the believers he was writing too. Paul is stating that whenever he goes to visit Spain, he will also go to visit Rome but he makes a stop before heading there against the leading of the Holy Spirit (Acts 21:4). Paul had already ministered to places that heard the gospel and was ready to visit Rome.

**Romans 15:24 *whenever I journey to Spain, I shall come to you. For I hope to see you on my journey, and to be helped on my way there by you, if first I may enjoy your company for a while.***

Paul was supposed to go and minister in Rome and Spain to the Gentiles but he ended up going to Jerusalem against the direction of the Holy Spirit (Acts 21:12). Paul's heart was so heavy towards his Jewish Brethren (Rom 9:1-2) that he ended up in Jerusalem in the region of Judea. This was totally against God's will. However, Paul was eager to see these people in Rome and to be in their presence. In the previous chapter he spoke about unity and the love for the brethren. This was not a new theme in Paul's writings.

**Romans 15:25 *But now I am going to Jerusalem to minister to the saints.***

Again, Paul was warned by the Holy Spirit to not go to Jerusalem but his heart was so connected to the Jews he went anyways.

**Romans 15:26 *For it pleased those from Macedonia and Achaia to make a certain contribution for the poor among the saints who are in Jerusalem.***

The word contribution here is referring to finances. Paul is stating here that there was a contribution that had been given to the believers in Jerusalem and that was his reasoning for going to there.

**Romans 15:27 *It pleased them indeed, and they are their debtors. For if the Gentiles have been partakers of their spiritual things, their duty is also to minister to them in material things.***

The Gentiles are now brought into the covenant of promise and have received every spiritual blessing in Christ but they also have an obligation to sow finances as well. We should not be deceived; a man reaps what he sows and anytime we are being taught we should share in all good things or we are mocking God (Gal 6:6-7).

**Romans 15:28** *Therefore, when I have performed this and have sealed to them this fruit, I shall go by way of you to Spain.*

Paul is stating he will head to Spain once he leaves Jerusalem.

**Romans 15:29** *But I know that when I come to you, I shall come in the fullness of the blessing of the gospel of Christ.*

Paul was walking in grace and knew that the ability to do what God called him to do was not through his own strength but by the power of the Holy Spirit working through him. The gospel of Christ is all about the blessing that God has released to His people through the indwelling of His Son in them. There is no blessing without Jesus and without Jesus there is no good news.

The gospel is not a partial gospel. This verse says fullness which in Greek is *pleroma* and means completion. The gospel is about Jesus finishing all the work that needed to be accomplished and us resting in what He has done. The power of the gospel brings health, deliverance, prosperity, wholeness, and soundness to the believer. It is not a partial message of experiencing victory when we die and go to be with the Lord. The Gospel is what a believer possesses now!

**Romans 15:30** *Now I beg you, brethren, through the Lord Jesus Christ, and through the love of the Spirit, that you strive together with me in prayers to God for me,*

Paul was in constant prayer for others. Even at some of his worst hours he was praying for others to be encouraged (Phil 4:6). Paul was allowing his identity in Christ to dominate him and he got this lifestyle from Jesus. During Jesus high priestly prayer right before His crucifixion Jesus was praying for others that the same view and opinion that God had of Him, He would have of us (Jn 17:20-22).

Many times, that we are in a trial it is easy to be focused on ourself and circumstances but if we look at the life of Jesus and Paul, we can see that at their worst hours, their attention was off of self and on other people. This is a great way to avoid getting into grief and sorrow.

Paul is now asking the Romans to come together in prayer that he may be delivered from the unbelievers in Jerusalem.

**Romans 15:31** *that I may be delivered from those in Judea who do not believe, and that my service for Jerusalem may be acceptable to the saints,*

The people Paul was praying to be delivered from were those in Judea who did not believe. Most times Paul went somewhere he encountered opposition from those who did not believe. This however, did not move Paul.

We should adopt this same mindset in the face of persecution (2 Tim 3:12).

**Romans 15:32** *that I may come to you with joy by the will of God, and may be refreshed together with you.*

Paul did not just want to come to those in Rome defeated and lacking zeal. He wanted to come with joy because that is what the Gospel produces.

**Romans 15:33 *Now the God of peace be with you all. Amen.***

God is the God of peace, not disaster or chaos. Paul knew that the opposition he faced was not orchestrated by God but that he was in direct opposition to the devil and would encounter resistance from the message he preached. God is peace and since we have now been born of God (John 1:13) we now in our born-again spirit already have peace (Gal 5:22). God's peace is not dependent on circumstances but is dependent on who we are in Christ.