

# **THE BOOK OF ROMANS**

## **17. Living in Unity**



### **Introduction**

In our previous study we have seen that there were areas where the Christians in Paul's time disagreed. The Gentile Christians thought one way, but the Jewish Christians felt differently. The Apostle gives them guidelines so they will know what to do in those 'grey' areas. He concludes by pointing them to the example of Jesus Christ and praying that they will be united.

**Scripture Reading:** Romans 15:1-21

### **1. Unity between Jew and Gentile v1-7**

- ☉ How can we maintain unity in our relationships with our brothers and sisters in Christ according to verses 1 to 6?
- ☉ Why do you think Paul mentions 'endurance and encouragement' when he prays for unity? Discuss.

Paul prayed for unity between the Jewish and Gentile believers. Jesus prayed for unity too. Let this be our prayer, that there will be unity in our families and churches. Let's be those who seek to build up unity, not tear it down!

### **2. God's purpose for the Gentiles v8-13**

- ☉ One of the themes of the book of Romans is God's plan of salvation for both Jew and Gentile. As we come to the end of the book, Paul speaks about this again. What were the promises that God made to the Patriarchs about the Gentiles? See v8, Genesis 12:3, Genesis 26:2, 4, 28:10, 14

Paul then goes on to quote four more Old Testament scriptures in Romans 15:9-12 that tell of how God would bring salvation to the Gentiles. The Jewish believers needed reminding that God had included the Gentiles and they should accept them too.

- ☉ We often focus on our own race, but Jesus commanded all Christians to 'make disciples of all nations'. How can you personally obey Jesus' command?

### **3. Paul's call to the Gentiles v14-21**

- ☉ What ministry had God called Paul to and what did this mean? Romans 15:16, 18, 20
- ☉ Paul was successful in his ministry. In what ways did he give glory to God for his success? Go through verses 15 to 19.
- ☉ What ministry do you think God has called you to do? Are you beginning to fulfil this?

### **Reality Check**

God wants us to be successful in ministry, but how do we respond when we are? Do we boast about what we have done or do we give glory to the Lord?

## **Conclusion**

We have been called to glorify God. This is what it says in Romans 15:6, “so that with one heart and mouth you may glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ.” And again in verse 9 it says, “So that the Gentiles may glorify God”. We do this when we live in unity with one another and seek to build one another up. Let’s close this study with the blessing that Paul gives in verse 11.

“May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in him, so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.”

