

## FROM DEVOTED DISCIPLESHIP TO CONCRETE COMMUNITY

Romans 15:1-13

WHAT KEEPS US FROM ANSWERING THE R12 CHALLENGE?

DARE TO MOVE FROM DOING “CHURCH” TO BEING AN “EKKLESIA”

*“Ekklesia:” Ek = out; kaleo = call; Called out (ones)*

OUR OBEDIENCE, AS WE FOLLOW CHRIST, LEADS TO TRUE UNITY

- 1. Paul’s Imperative: What does God call us to do? (vv 1-2, 7)*
- 2. How we’re able to carry out our calling: Following Christ’s example. (vv. 3, 8-9)*
- 3. The purpose of Scripture: To encourage us so we may have hope (vv. 4, 9-12)*
- 4. As we live in line with our calling, God is able to do what He desires to do. (5-6, 13)*

*Spiritual principle: When we take a step of faith of obedience to God’s Word, following the example of Christ Himself, God’s Spirit is pleased to work in and through our steps of obedience.*

TRUE UNITY REQUIRES THE STRONG TO BEAR THE WEAK

HOW TO KNOW IF YOU’RE THE STRONGER OR WEAKER CHRISTIAN

Questions For Reflection and/or Discussion:

- What unhealthy stereotypes do many people have of the church today? How much is that justified? How does it help that ekklesia actually means, “called out ones?”
- How does 15:1-13 serve as a model for obedient living? How does Paul’s teaching encourage obedience?
- What does it mean to be the stronger Christian versus the weak? To what lengths do we “bear” the weaker brother or sister? Is there a limit?
- Explain why the stronger Christian can accept others while the weaker Christian has a much harder time.

Romans 15:1-13

*“Now we who are strong ought to bear the weaknesses of those without strength and not just please ourselves. <sup>2</sup>Each of us is to please his neighbor for his good, to his edification. <sup>3</sup>For even Christ did not please Himself; but as it is written, “THE REPROACHES OF THOSE WHO REPROACHED YOU FELL ON ME.” <sup>4</sup>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. <sup>5</sup>Now may the God who gives perseverance and encouragement grant you to be of the same mind with one another according to Christ Jesus, <sup>6</sup>so that with one accord you may with one voice glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ.*

*<sup>7</sup>Therefore, accept one another, just as Christ also accepted us to the glory of God. <sup>8</sup>For I say that Christ has become a servant to the circumcision on behalf of the truth of God to confirm the promises given to the fathers, <sup>9</sup>and for the Gentiles to glorify God for His mercy; as it is written, “THEREFORE I WILL GIVE PRAISE TO YOU AMONG THE GENTILES, AND I WILL SING TO YOUR NAME.” <sup>10</sup>Again he says, “REJOICE, O GENTILES, WITH HIS PEOPLE.” <sup>11</sup>And again, “PRAISE THE LORD ALL YOU GENTILES, AND LET ALL THE PEOPLES PRAISE HIM.” <sup>12</sup>Again Isaiah says, “THERE SHALL COME THE ROOT OF JESSE, AND HE WHO ARISES TO RULE OVER THE GENTILES, IN HIM SHALL THE GENTILES HOPE.” <sup>13</sup>Now may the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that you will abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.”*