

THINGS WE OUGHT TO DO
Jkroberts_us@yahoo.com
www.pacolethillsbaptist.org
May 13, 2018

Romans 15:1-13

1. Beginning with chapter twelve Paul's focus is on how we as Christians should relate to one another and to the world in which we live.
2. These truths are more easily understood and readily accepted in societies where people are interdependent rather than independent.
3. In the West we tend to focus on being our own person, living by our own rules, and looking out for number one.
4. All of the above are in conflict with the teaching of Scripture and God's intent for us who are true followers of the Lord Jesus Christ.
5. We are to care about our fellow believers locally and globally.
6. Today we are going to focus on our responsibility to our brothers and sisters in Christ who we actually rub elbows with.
7. God is our Heavenly Father, and it is His will that every one of His children should be connected to a local body of like-minded believers that is overseen and cared for by men He has chosen, called, and equipped.
8. Not all of God's children are at the same place in their spiritual development, and those who are more advanced are to care for and look after those who need instruction and looking after.
9. I am the second oldest of ten children, and my parents held me and those close to my age responsible for our younger siblings.
10. God the Father has the same expectations, and His Word makes that fact abundantly clear.

I. The strong ought to identify with the not so strong. 1-3

- A. The word "ought" in verse one means "to owe" or to "be in debt to," and speaks of an obligation.
- B. Paul used a similar word in Romans 1:14-15 when he wrote, "I am under obligation both to Greeks and to barbarians, both to the wise and to the foolish. 15 So, for my part, I am eager to preach the gospel to you also who are in Rome."
- C. Note how the Amplified Bible interprets these verses.
"We who are strong [in our convictions and of robust faith] ought to bear with the failings and the frailties and the tender scruples of the weak; [we ought to help carry the doubts and qualms of others] and not to please ourselves. Let each one of us make it a practice to please (make happy) his neighbor for his good and for his true welfare, to edify him [to strengthen him and build him up spiritually]. For Christ did not please Himself [gave no thought to His own interests]; but, as it is written, 'The reproaches and abuses of those who reproached and abused You (God) fell on Me.'"
- D. God's clear intention was that as individual Christians progressed they would take under their wing and mentor new or uninformed believers.

- E. Sadly, this intention on God's part is rarely seen in the modern American Church.
- F. God's intention requires spiritually mature and knowledgeable believers if this is actually going to happen. Heb 5:11-14

Concerning Him (Jesus Christ) we have much to say, and it is hard to explain, since you have become dull of hearing. 12 For though by this time you **ought** to be teachers, you have need again for someone to teach you the elementary principles of the oracles of God, and you have come to need milk and not solid food. 13 For everyone who partakes only of milk is not accustomed to the word of righteousness, for he is an infant. 14 But solid food is for the mature, who because of practice have their senses trained to discern good and evil.

NOTE: We owe it to others to grow and progress spiritually so that we can be God's instruments in their lives.

II. In Christ, the not so strong can become the strong. 4-6

- A. Sadly, many professed Christians are more interested in pleasing themselves rather than pleasing God by becoming examples and mentors to others.
- B. The Scriptures were written for our instruction, so that through (our) perseverance and (the) encouragement of the Scriptures we might have hope.
- C. Verse 5 has two possible interpretations, but both imply the same thing.
 - 1. "Now may the God who gives perseverance and encouragement grant you..."
 - 2. "Now may the God of perseverance and encouragement grant you..."
- NOTE: Like God we are demonstrate perseverance and encouragement, and He is able to grant us the ability to do both.
- D. The key words here are "grant you."
- E. All that we need to be all that God wants us to be is available to us in and through Jesus Christ.
- F. By the grace of God we can, with one mind, in one accord, with one voice, glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ.

III. We all, the strong and the not so strong, are dependent upon the power of the Holy Spirit. 7-13

- A. Accept one another just as Christ has accepted us to the glory of God.
- B. In accepting one another we become servants to one another just as Jesus became a servant to both Jews and Gentiles.
- C. Believe that God is able to fill us with all joy and peace in believing, so that we will all abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.

APPLICATION

- 1. Sadly the current scheme of things does not lend itself to individual believers mentoring others.
 - a. We are often wrapped up in our own lives.
 - b. We feel unqualified.
 - c. We are not willing to be vulnerable, transparent, and accountable.
- 2. Subsequently if discipleship training happens at all it is through church sponsored discipleship groups.
- 3. We are in this together, we need each other, and we are responsible for each other.