

We Are One...Or Are We?

Romans 15:1-13

Our Outline Today

- **Encouragement in our Duty, vss 1-2**
- **Encouragement in the Past, vss 3-4**
- **Encouragement in the Present, vss 5-7**
- **Encouragement in the Future, vss 8-12**
- **Encouragement Now, vs. 13**

Context

- **What we're not talking about!**
 - Sin
 - Doctrine
- **What we are talking about!**
 - Christian Liberty (neither condemned or commended in Scripture); Meat, Holy Days.
 - Unity in diversity, and not uniformity.

Encouragement in our Duty, vs 1-2

- Decisions come in Christian Liberty on whether we should insist on our way or should we give way to the weak.

Encouragement in our Duty, vs 1-2

- In making this decision, two principles must be considered.
 - First, choose to please your neighbor rather than yourself. This is love. Verses 1
 - Paul as an example - 1 Corinthians 8:13
 - Second, choose for his good and edification, vs 2
 - Seek to edify - build up which strikes at the heart of self-centeredness. Good is for his benefit.

Encouragement in the Past, vss 3-4

- **Jesus Himself, vs 3**

- **Christ is an example of otherness oriented life.**

- He gave up His bliss and Majestic glory for us, Phi 2

- Became filled with heartache and pain, Isa 53

- He sought Fathers pleasure even at own intense personal agony, and humiliation, Luke 22:44, 63-65

Encouragement in the Past, vss 3-4

- The perfect one who always did the will of the Father. John 8:29.
 - Yet, He ran into problems all the time with offending people.
- Three Actions of Jesus When He Offended.
 - **First**, Luke 14:1-6 – Jesus was not keeping the Sabbath as some thought. Did Christ give in? No! If He went along, they could never learn. **So he did not adjust to them.**

Encouragement in the Past, vss 3-4

- Three Actions of Jesus When He Offended.
 - **Second, Matthew 17:24-27** When accused of not paying taxes – He didn't have to, but sent Peter down to catch a fish and get the monies. He did so in order not to offend. **He did adjust to the complaint.**

Encouragement in the Past, vss 3-4

- Three Actions of Jesus When He Offended.
 - Third, Luke 7:33-34 Jesus said he can't please everyone. John the Baptist came not drinking and eating and He did. Thus he did what God sent Him to do. He left it with God.

Encouragement in the Past, vss 3-4

- Principle

- As seen with our Lord, there will be times when you can't please anyone. Leave it to God. There will be times when you can please, and you should. But there will be still other times when you can't and you shouldn't. If you did you'd hinder people in their spiritual growth. Therefore, you should not seek to please them.
- Furthermore, a question to ask yourself: are they sitting on the fence judging or are they running the race? Christ never yielded to the fence sitters.

Encouragement in the Past, vss 3-4

- **Old Testament Examples of Encouragement, vs 4**
 - Abraham giving into Lot, Genesis 13:1-18 (8-11).
 - Moses giving up being a prince of Egypt, Heb 11:24-26.
 - The Old Testament is replete with accounts of godly people living above circumstances to please others with their eye's on God while ministering to those around.
 - It helps us persevere: not passively endure, but actively meet head on and turn them into glory.

Encouragement in the Present, vss 5-7

- **God's Commitment through Scripture, vss 5-6**
 - One mind (opinion), vs 5
 - One voice, vs 6
- **Believer's Responsibility, vs 7**
 - Accept: welcome, be hospitable: John 13
 - Accept one another: weak and strong. Not to change each other, but as they are.

Encouragement in the Future, vss 8-12

- The Jews, verse 8
 - Servant is word for deacon. He served keeping the strict moral and ethical codes. Confirms: to fulfill the guarantee.
- The Gentiles, verse 9 (Psa 18:49)
 - Christ becoming a servant, caused the gentiles to glorify God. Yet, He did not lose His morality/ethics.
- The Jews and Gentiles, verses 10-11 (Deut 32:43; Psa 117:1)
 - The huge breach has been healed by Christ.
- The Hope, verse 12 (Isa 11:10)
 - The great Creator became a root and through this submission He will ultimately rule and this gives hope to in His example.

Encouragement Now, vs. 13

- **Fill with Joy (Emotion)**
 - Not pleasure which is happiness due to outward circumstance, but joy is an inward consciousness of God's presence and that He'll never leave you.
- **Peace in Believing (Mind)**
 - Not untroubled life, but a singleness of mind. That God's hand will never cause His child a needless tear.
- **Abound in Hope**
 - (The) hope which is the coming of the Lord Jesus and the earnest expectation of the fulfillment of all the promises of God
- **All by Power of Holy Spirit**
 - To do what is right.

Plan of Action

- Are there some legitimate, good things, rightful things, that God is asking us to forego for the good of our brothers and sisters?
 - Then by all means let us forego them.
- Are there some believers whom we have been unwilling to accept because they are not our type? God says we must accept them and love them.
 - Let each of us covenant to do this now.