

## Live for Others 2022-11-13

### Romans 15:1

*We who are strong have an obligation to bear with the failings of the weak, and not to please ourselves.*

World: strong take advantage of weak. Christian: strong not victimize but obligated to help.

- Sacrificial living with weak/lost in mind is Christ-like and brings glory to God.

Truly strong Christians are willing to limit their freedoms to care for/love weaker.

### Romans 15:1, Galatians 6:1-2

- “bear” not merely tolerate/patient but purposefully, generously, cheerfully help weak to carry their loads.
  - Must be denial of self-interest and self-serving.
- Real Christian freedom means inconvenience: not live for self but for others.
  - Limit actions in one area to accomplish more important goals in another.
    - Please others for sake of peace, unity and God’s glory.

“pleasing” weak brother is encourage/build up, edify, strengthen.

- Goal pleasing lost (neighbor) is eternally focused. Romans 15:2-3
  - not please the way the neighbor dictates but as God desires.
    - “For his good” is seeking their salvation not their comfort/pleasure.

Jesus is our example: sacrificed Himself to bring about our ultimate good....salvation

- Jesus willingly denied self and suffer for benefit of “weak” like us.
  - if Jesus did something so great for us, we can do lesser to serve weak/lost.

Never deny self, love sacrificially if don’t have absolute certainty of future hope in Jesus Christ as revealed in Scripts. Romans 15:4, 2 Timothy 3:16-17, Romans 8:24b-25, Psalm 119:50

- Scripture teaches God's attributes/character, faithfulness and certainty His promises.
  - Those truths affect present attitude/behavior to encourage us to persevere in living not to please self.
- By God’s grace able to live with long view so differences in convictions do not create friction/fall with brothers.
  - able with one voice (in spite of differences) glorify God together. Romans 15:5-7

Does not mean agree about every issue but same desires: deny self and accept one another.

- unity transcends differences in race, culture, age, gender, background,
  - Because based on common salvation in Jesus Christ, shared purpose in gospel and hope in God’s eternal promises.
- not just invisible/spiritual unity but unity world can see. John 17:20-23
  - unity of heart seen in worship/fellowship and verbal witness/encourage.

Unity not optional behavior for Christians but essential if God be glorified.

- unity not man-made but gift from God. 2 Thessalonians 2:16,
  - But we have responsibility:
    - pursue peace/building up/others good, no stumbling blocks, pray for unity....be inconvenienced for Gospel sake!
      - Desire be imitators of Jesus Christ's unselfish love for others.

Jesus' life/ministry motivation/means for deny self/serve others. Mark 10:42-45, Psalm 119:36-

- Jesus became servant and accepted us when unlovely, sinful, lost.
  - Imitate Jesus Christ, live sacrificially with weak/lost in mind and God will be glorified.