



A STUDY OF  
THE BOOK OF  
**ROM  
ANS**

upgrade



# CHAPTER 15

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**upgrade**



# ROMANS 15: LIVING FOR OTHERS & SERVING IN MINISTRY

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Based on Warren Wiersbe's Exposition Commentary



# INTRODUCTION

**Theme:** True maturity is seen in how we serve others and glorify God together.

- Paul closes Romans by addressing selfishness among believers.
- True Christian love sacrifices for others.
- Christ is our supreme example — He gave His life for us.



## ROMANS 15:1 – 4 (NKJV)

<sup>1</sup> We then who are strong ought to bear with the scruples of the weak, and not to please ourselves. <sup>2</sup> Let each of us please his neighbor for his good, leading to 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 things were written before were written for our learning, that we through the patience and comfort of the Scriptures might have hope.



# 1. Living for Others, Not Ourselves

- Paul classified himself with the strong saints as he dealt with a basic problem — *selfishness*.
- *True Christian love is not selfish; rather, it seeks to share with others and make others happy. It is even willing to carry the younger Christians, to help them along in their spiritual development.*

**We do not endure them.**

**We encourage them!**



# 1. Living for Others, Not Ourselves

- Of course, the great example in this is our Lord Jesus Christ. He paid a tremendous price in order to minister to us. In verse 3, Paul quoted Psalm 69:9 to prove his point.
- Does a strong Christian think he is making a great sacrifice by giving up some food or drink? **Then let him measure his sacrifice by the sacrifice of Christ.**

**No sacrifice we could ever make could match Calvary.**



- A person's spiritual maturity is revealed by his discernment.
- He is willing to give up his rights that others might be helped. He does this, not as a burden, but as a blessing.
- Just as loving parents make sacrifices for their children, so the mature believer sacrifices to help younger Christians grow in the faith.



# 1. Living for Others, Not Ourselves

## ROMANS 15:5 – 7 (NKJV)

<sup>5</sup> Now may the God of patience and comfort grant you to be like-minded toward one another, according to Christ Jesus, <sup>6</sup> that you may with one mind and one mouth glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ.

<sup>7</sup> Therefore receive one another, just as Christ also received us, to the glory of God.



- Paul shared the two sources of spiritual power from which we must draw if we are to live to please others: the Word of God (Rom. 15:4) and prayer (Rom. 15:5–6).
- We must confess that we sometimes get impatient with younger Christians, just as parents become impatient with their children. But the Word of God can give us the “patience and encouragement” that we need.
- Paul closed this section praying for his readers, that they might experience from God the spiritual unity that He alone can give.



- When they found others to share their burdens, they returned to their proper ministry, and the church experienced harmony and growth.
- The result of this is, of course, glory to God (Romans 15:7).
- Disunity and disagreement do not glorify God; they rob Him of glory.
- Abraham's words to Lot are applicable to today: "Let there be no strife, I pray thee, between me and thee ... for we be brethren" (Genesis 13:8).



- The neighbors were watching! Abraham wanted them to see that he and Lot were different from them because they worshiped the true God.
- In His prayer in John 17, Jesus prayed for the unity of the church to the glory of God (John 17:20–26).

**Receive one another; edify one another;  
and please one another —  
all to the glory of God.**



## JOHN 17:20 – 26 (NKJV)

<sup>20</sup> “I do not pray for these alone, but also for those who will believe in Me through their word; <sup>21</sup> that they all may be one, as You, Father, are in Me, and I in You; that they also may be one in Us, that the world may believe that You sent Me. <sup>22</sup> And the glory which You gave Me I have given them, that they may be one just as We are one: <sup>23</sup> I in them, and You in Me; that they may be made perfect in one, and that the world may know that You have sent Me, and have loved them as You have loved Me.



**<sup>24</sup> “Father, I desire that they also whom You gave Me may be with Me where I am, that they may behold My glory which You have given Me; for You loved Me before the foundation of the world. <sup>25</sup> O righteous Father! The world has not known You, but I have known You; and these have known that You sent Me. <sup>26</sup> And I have declared to them Your name, and will declare it, that the love with which You loved Me may be in them, and I in them.”**



## ROMANS 15:8 – 13 (NKJV)

<sup>8</sup> Now I say that Jesus Christ has become a servant to the circumcision for the truth of God, to confirm the promises made to the fathers, <sup>9</sup> and that the Gentiles might glorify God for His mercy, as it is written:

“For this reason I will confess to You among the Gentiles,  
And sing to Your name.”

<sup>10</sup> And again he says:

“Rejoice, O Gentiles, with His people!”



**11 And again:**

**“Praise the LORD, all you Gentiles!  
Laud Him, all you peoples!”**

**12 And again, Isaiah says:**

**“There shall be a root of Jesse;  
And He who shall rise to reign over the Gentiles,  
In Him the Gentiles shall hope.”**

**13 Now may the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.**



## II. THE MINISTRY OF CHRIST (vv. 8 – 13)

- Jesus ministered first to Jews, then Gentiles (v. 8).
- Progression of praise: Jews & Gentiles worship together (vv. 9–12).
- Gentiles now have hope, joy, peace, and power (v. 13).

**Discussion:**

**How can today's church reflect this unity?**



- The supreme example of ministry is always found in Jesus Christ. He declared, “But I am among you as the One who serves” (Luke 22:27).
- His life and mission modeled true servanthood, beginning with His ministry to the Jews so that through them, the message of salvation could reach the Gentiles.
- This principle of “to the Jew first” shaped His earthly ministry and the early church’s mission.



- For example, John the Baptist prepared Israel for their Messiah, and when Jesus began His public ministry, His focus was primarily on the house of Israel.
- Even when He sent out the Apostles on their first mission, He instructed them not to go to the Gentiles or Samaritans but instead to the “lost sheep of the house of Israel” (Matthew 10:5–6).
- This did not mean that He ignored Gentiles altogether, as seen in His interactions with the Roman centurion (Matthew 8:5–13) and the Canaanite woman (Matthew 15:21–28), but His primary emphasis was on fulfilling God’s covenant promises to Israel.



- After His resurrection, He commanded His disciples to begin their ministry in Jerusalem (Luke 24:44–49), and the first chapters of Acts (1–7) record ministry directed almost exclusively to Jews and Jewish proselytes.
- Only later did the Gospel spread to the Samaritans (Acts 8), the Gentiles (Acts 10), and then throughout the Roman Empire under Paul’s leadership (Acts 13:1–3).



- Jesus' death and resurrection confirmed the promises God had made to Abraham and the patriarchs (Luke 1:30–33, 46–55, 67–80).
- Some promises have already been fulfilled, while others await His return and the establishment of His kingdom.
- God's emphasis on Israel was never selfish or exclusive; rather, it was through Israel that the message of salvation would flow to all nations.



- As Jesus told the Samaritan woman, “Salvation is of the Jews” (John 4:22). Israel was called to be a light to the Gentiles in the Old Testament, though they often failed and fell into idolatry.
- Yet in the New Testament, Jewish believers carried the Good News to the Gentiles, and through their obedience, the Gospel spread across the world.



**This teaches us that God’s plan of salvation has always been inclusive, starting with a chosen people but designed to bless all nations. And at the center of it all stands Jesus—the servant King—who models for us the heart of true ministry.**



# CONCLUSION & APPLICATION

- Receive one another, edify one another, and please one another—all to God's glory.
- **True maturity:** sacrifice, service, and striving in prayer.
- Christ gave everything — our supreme example.
- **Takeaway:** Unity, sacrificial service, and prayer glorify God.