

SCAN TO LET US KNOW YOU ARE PARTICIPATING



WEEK TWENTY-FIVE

In week twenty-five, we will study Romans 15:1-13. Paul gives further instructs on how the "strong" should love and work with the "weak." He reminds the Romans how Christ died for them all and how there current sufferings are not in comparison to what Christ suffered.

SERMON NOTES

1 We who are strong must be considerate of those who are sensitive about things like this.

We must not just please ourselves. 2 We should help others do what is right and build them up in the Lord. 3 For even Christ didn't live to please himself. As the Scriptures say, "The insults of those who insult you, O God, have fallen on me." 4 Such things were written in the Scriptures long ago to teach us. And the Scriptures give us hope and encouragement as we wait patiently for God's promises to be fulfilled. 5 May God, who gives this patience and encouragement, help you live in complete harmony with each other, as is fitting for followers of Christ Jesus. 6 Then all of you can join together with one voice, giving praise and glory to God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ.7 Therefore, accept each other just as Christ has accepted you so that God will be given glory.

8 Remember that Christ came as a servant to the Jews to show that God is true to the promises he made to their ancestors. 9 He also came so that the Gentiles might give glory to God for his mercies to them. That is what the psalmist meant when he wrote:

"For this, I will praise you among the Gentiles; I will sing praises to your name." 10 And in another place it is written, "Rejoice with his people, you Gentiles." 11 And yet again, "Praise the Lord, all you Gentiles. Praise him, all you people of the earth."12 And in another place Isaiah said, "The heir to David's throne will come, and he will rule over the Gentiles. They will place their hope on him." 13 I pray that God, the source of hope, will fill you completely with joy and peace because you trust in him. Then you will overflow with confident hope through the power of the Holy Spirit.

READ: ROMANS 15:1-2

Last week Paul spoke about the strong and the weak.

Remind yourself what the strong and weak do.

Paul uses the words dynaatoí (strong) and adynaatoí (not strong). These words have obvious similarities in how they are spelled, but are complete opposites of each other. It is the adynaatoí that has failed to realize their freedom Christ has granted them from certain rituals and routines, but Paul's message is not for them to stop, but for the dynaatoí to not please themselves but in verse 2 called the adynaatoí their neighbors. Every human is their neighbor and they should love them as so, even if they feel like their way is the only correct way.

How does Paul's language of everyone being a neighbor challenge you, especially with those you disagree with?

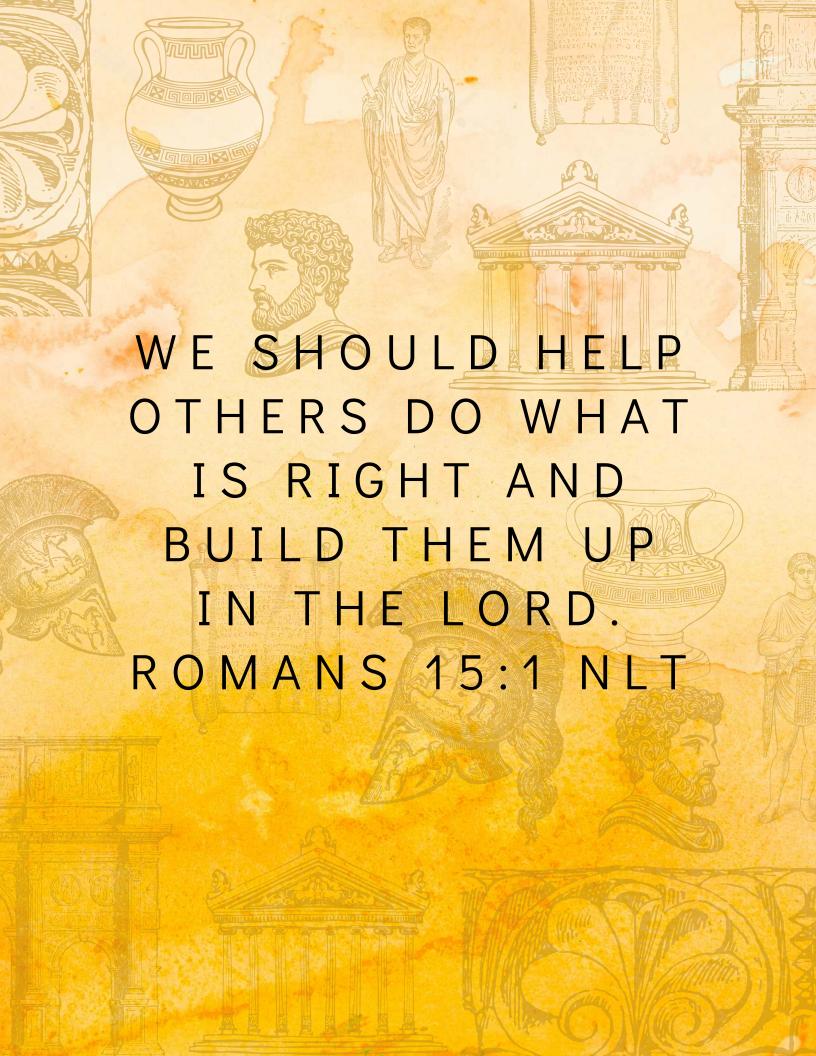
Beverly Gaveta says, "strength, as Paul sees it, is not to be identified with either eating or abstaining. It has to do with the willingness to 'bear the weakness' of others."

low do Gaventa's words impa	ict how you view being "the strong"?

Those of us who are strong and able in the faith need to step in and lend a hand to those who falter, and not just do what is most convenient for us. Strength is for service, not status. Each one of us needs to look after the good of the people around us, asking ourselves, "How can I help?"

Romans 15:1-2 The Message

REFLECT ON THE MESSAGE'S TRANSLATION OF THE FIRST 2 VERSES. HOW DOES SEEING ONE ANOTHER AS YOUR NEIGHBOR EMPOWER YOU?



READ: ROMANS 15:3-4

What do verses 3 and 4 instruct us about how Christ lived his life?

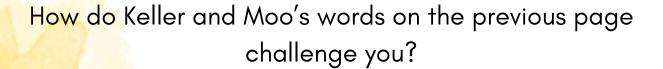
Paul is saying that Jesus was willing to be mocked, tortured and killed by those who are God's enemies. He did that to serve those around him, and we are to have the same attitude toward everyone around us- to live sacrificially to build them up.

-Tim Keller

Occasionally abstaining from meat or wine, or observing a special religious day should not seem like much a burden in comparison with what Christ has to suffer for the sake of others.

-Dougla J Moo

Remind yourself of some of the sacrifices Christ made.



These verses remind us of Christ's sacrifice and of his position in our lives. They remind us that he came to serve and be a living sacrifice for all of us, including those who did not and continue to not serve him. Many times, this causes us to lay down our pride and pick up the cross of Christ. As believers we are called to lift one another up, even in disagreement.

WHAT IS SOMETHING THAT YOU HAVE HELD ONTO THAT YOU NEED TO LAY DOWN OR LET GO OF?

READ: ROMANS 15:5-6

Look up different versions of verse 5. How do the different versions describe how the NLT puts it, "complete harmony"?

Living in "complete harmony" feels almost impossible in the world we live in today. In some ways it is. Tim Keller calls this type of unity a "supernatural gift." We cannot have the type of unity that these verses speak of without the Spirit of God. Can you imagine seeing your enemy as your neighbor without the Spirit of God?

Impossible, but God creates a beutiful unity when we invite him in.

Write a situation where God has provided unity when it felt like harmony of any sorts seamed impossible.

The point of it all is not simply being able to live in peace and quiet without squabbling. That would be, so to speak, simply clearing the ground of rubble. The point is to build: and what needs to be built is the common life of praise and worship. 'With one mind' and 'with one mouth' go closely together, describing that glad unanimity of praise and worship which indicates both to the watching world and to the Christians themselves that they are not worshipping a merely local deity, the projection of their own culture, but the One True God of all the world, the God now known as the father of Jesus the Messiah.

-N.T Wright

WHAT DOES IT LOOK LIKE FOR YOU TO PURSUE ONE VOICE TODAY?

READ: ROMANS 15:7-8

What does Paul say gives God glory?

There is a sense of praise in these verses. When we accept one another, as Christ has accepted us, God gets the glory. Paul reinforces the idea that it is not about us, our ideas, opinions, or even our love, but about the full kingdom of God unifying. Tim Keller says, "The encouragement and challenge to both his 1st century readers and his 21st century ones are to recognize this God-given authority, and joyfully humbly and corporately to work out the implications of the Gospel that Paul has laid out in Romans.

Paul turns, as he has done again and again, to the promises of God. What promises does he say are fulfilled in these verses?

As we begin our ending of the book of Romans Paul reminds us where he started. "For I am not ashamed of the gospel, because it is the power of God that brings salvation to everyone who believes: first to the Jew, then to the Gentile."

Both Jew and Gentile will experience the promises of God.

In tomorrow's verses he will back it up with the Old

Testament verses. As we will see in the following week's

Paul will return to the same overarching theme as he told us in Romans 1.

HOW DOES PAUL REFERRING TO THE SAME IDEA OF JEW IN GENTILE IN THESE VERSES ENCOURAGE YOU?

READ: ROMANS 15:9-13

How does Paul's reminder of the Old Testament verses encourage you?

N.T. Wright says. "the whole Old Testament forms the Godgiven story of how the covenant people were called to bring God's salvation to the good but fallen creation." Paul reminds us this was all planned and accounted for before hand. God would always use his people to invite the whole world the follow him.

Which of the 4 statements from the Old Testament resonate or inspire you the most?

Verse 13 is our main verse, not only for the study of Romans, but for our church for the year 2025. Look through the different versions of this verse.

I pray that God, the source of hope, will fill you completely with joy and peace because you trust in him. Then you will overflow with confident hope through the power of the Holy Spirit.

NLT

May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in him, so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.

NIV

May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that by the power of the Holy Spirit you may abound in hope. ESV

HOW DO THESE VERSE AND THE BOOK OF ROMANS HELP YOU "OVERFLOW" OR "ABOUND" IN HOPE?

REFLECTION FOR THE WEEK

WHAT VERSES (OR VERSE) HAVE STUCK OUT TO YOU THE MOST THIS WEEK?

WHAT DO YOU FEEL THE HOLY SPIRIT LEADING YOU TO DO OR BELIEVE THIS WEEK?

