

Romans 15:1-13
“No Man Left Behind”

~ INTRO. ~

LAST WEEK...

- We learned to balance liberties with love...
 - So that other believers are NOT stumbled...
 - Over my freedoms.

TODAY... (Chp. #15) CONTINUES...

- By confronting a misunderstood problem of selfishness.
- When I see a believer embracing stuff...
 - The Bible cautions about...
 - I am to speak up!

(Philippians 2:3-5) NLT

Don't be selfish; don't try to impress others. Be humble, thinking of others as better than yourselves. Don't look out only for your own interests, but take an interest in others, too. You must have the same attitude that Christ Jesus had.

IDEA #1 – SHAKY LEGS

- (v.1) strong = To be firm in conviction & faith.
- weak = A Christian whose faith is not quite firm.

HERE'S THE LESSON:

MATURE CHRISTIANS...

- Are to act by bearing UP...
 - Not bearing WITH – it's not passive toleration.

(Gal. 6:1-3) NLT

Dear brothers and sisters, if another believer is overcome by some sin, you who are godly should gently and humbly help that person back onto the right path. And be careful not to fall into the same temptation yourself. Share each other's burdens, and in this way obey

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the law of Christ. If you think you are too important to help someone, you are only fooling yourself. You are not that important.

WE DON'T SETTLE...

- For the bad behavior of a newer Christian...
 - We're to help them by speaking up.
 - We take the opportunity to **build up** them up.

What Paul's saying here...

- We're to **carry the weaker** believer...
 - Until he can gain strength by showing him the way.
- We're not to remain silent with selfish excuses...
 - *I don't want to get involved.*
 - *I don't know what to say.*
 - We're to engage for love's sake – speak up.

(vv.2-3) PAUL CAPS IT...

- With Jesus as the example.

IDEA #2 – FIRM FOUNDATION

(v.4) NLT – THREE TAKE AWAYS...

- 1) The scriptures *teach us*
- 2) The scriptures *give us hope*
- 3) The scriptures *give us encouragement*

HERE'S HOW WE APPLY IT:

SOME ONE SAID...

- In the modern church people have mistaken...
 - God's spiritual leaders as babysitters...
 - And NOT shepherds.
- Babysitters are NOT invested... they don't have parental instinct.
 - They feed kids too much candy...
 - They entertain them with movies...
 - And they're soft on the boundaries.

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A Shepherd MAKES SURE...

- God's people know the word.

(2 Tim. 3:16-17)

- Doctrine = Teaches us what's right.
- Reproof = Tells us what's not right.
- Correction = Tells us how to get right.
- Instruction = Teaches us how to stay right.

IDEA #3 – OUTGROWTH OF SUPPORT

BIBLE COMMENTATORS SAY (vv.5-6)...

- Is Paul's written prayer for the Church.

BEYOND THAT...

- We see God uniting hearts thru His word.

HOW?

AS WE CONTINUE...

- Studying thru the scriptures together...
 - We grow in **like-mindedness** toward God.
 - AND **unity** is an outgrowth of **healthy faith**.

HOWEVER...

- When **someone falls back**...
 - The exact opposite is true – broken unity.

The person that has **not been to church in awhile**

- The person who minimizes Biblical truths.
 - Spiritually this person is being slowly defeated.
- On the natural-level...
 - Relationship slowly fades...
 - And people **disconnect**.

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PICTURE IT LIKE THIS...

- A log that rolls out of a camp fire.
 - It cools to the point where the log is no longer burning.

IT'S NOT THAT...

- The person is **not saved** or does not **know the Lord**...
 - BUT... they have put **distance & isolated** themselves...
 - And they become disconnected and spiritually dull.

THE BIG IDEA:

PAUL IS ENCOURAGING A LIKE-MINDEDNESS

- That stirs up practical results seen in a healthy faith = unity.
- Where unity is lacking among believers...
 - There is always a spiritual issue at the root!

(1 John 4:20-21) NLT

If someone says, “I love God,” but hates a fellow believer, that person is a liar; for if we don’t love people we can see, how can we love God, whom we cannot see? And he has given us this command: Those who love God must also love their fellow believers.

~ IN CLOSING ~

(vv.8-9) PAUL USES THE EXAMPLES...

- Of the Jew & Gentile being unified in Jesus.
 - Jew = Experienced fulfilled promises...
 - Which created a confidence in God’s word.
 - Gentile = Experienced the mercy of God...
 - Which created rejoicing & hope.

(v.13) NLT

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.