

Praying Romans 15

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Romans 15:1–21 (ESV)

1 We who are strong have an obligation to bear with the failings of the weak, and not to please ourselves. **2** Let each of us please his neighbor for his good, to build him up. **3** For Christ did not please himself, but as it is written, “The reproaches of those who reproached you fell on me.” **4** For whatever was written in former days was written for our instruction, that through endurance and through the encouragement of the Scriptures we might have hope. **5** May the God of endurance and encouragement grant you to live in such harmony with one another, in accord with Christ Jesus, **6** that together you may with one voice glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ. **7** Therefore welcome one another as Christ has welcomed you, for the glory of God.

8 For I tell you that Christ became a servant to the circumcised to show God's truthfulness, in order to confirm the promises given to the patriarchs, **9** and in order that the Gentiles might glorify God for his mercy. As it is written,

“Therefore I will praise you among the Gentiles,
and sing to your name.”

10 And again it is said,

“Rejoice, O Gentiles, with his people.”

11 And again,

“Praise the Lord, all you Gentiles,
and let all the peoples extol him.”

12 And again Isaiah says,

“The root of Jesse will come,
even he who arises to rule the Gentiles;
in him will the Gentiles hope.”

13 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.

14 I myself am satisfied about you, my brothers, that you yourselves are full of goodness, filled with all knowledge and able to instruct one another. **15** But on some points I have written to you very boldly by way of reminder, because of the grace given me by God **16** to be a minister of Christ Jesus to the Gentiles in the priestly service of the gospel of God, so that the offering of the Gentiles may be acceptable, sanctified by the Holy Spirit. **17** In Christ Jesus, then, I have reason to be proud of my work for God. **18** For I will not venture to speak of anything except what Christ has accomplished through me to bring the Gentiles to obedience—by word and deed, **19** by the power of signs and wonders, by the power of the Spirit of God—so that from Jerusalem and all the way around to Illyricum I have fulfilled the ministry of the gospel of Christ; **20** and thus I make it my ambition to preach the gospel, not where Christ has already been named, lest I build on someone else's foundation, **21** but as it is written,

“Those who have never been told of him will see,
and those who have never heard will understand.”

Adoration

In Romans 15:8–12, Paul shows us that Jesus Christ is the one true hope of humanity and is worthy of praise. As verse 11 instructs us from the Psalms, “Praise the Lord, all you Gentiles, and let all the peoples extol him.”¹ Praise God in your own words, for his desire to forgive us, even in our sinful rebellion, and for his faithfulness to send a savior.

[Pray for 15 seconds.]

Romans 15 also gives us a specific reason to praise God. Paul tells us in Romans 15:8 that “Christ became a servant to the [Jews] to show God’s truthfulness,” that God had confirmed “the promises given to the patriarchs” of Israel. Adore God out loud for revealing his truthfulness to us in Jesus Christ, our Savior, who is the Messiah promised to Israel.

[Pray for 10 seconds.]

Romans 15:9 explains that Christ also came “in order that the Gentiles might glorify God for his mercy.” As a result, now all nations and peoples—both Jews and Gentiles—have reason to hope, praise, rejoice, and exalt the Lord. Raise your voice and praise God for his mercy to generously offer salvation to people from every nation, tribe, and language.²

[Pray for 15 seconds.]

Father, we praise you because of who you are. You declare yourself to be a “God merciful and gracious, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love and faithfulness, keeping steadfast love for thousands; forgiving iniquity and transgression and sin, but who will by no means clear

¹ Ps 117:1.

² Rev 7:9–10.

the guilty.”³ We exalt you for faithfully sending your Son Jesus, who—though he did not commit iniquity—was guilty and condemned in our place, so that we might receive forgiveness of sin and experience the generosity of your love for all nations and people. We give our words of thanks and praise today.

Confession

Romans 15 gives an important principle for the way Christians are called to treat one another in response to the gospel. Hear again the words of verses 2 and 3: “Let each of us please his neighbor for his good, to build him up. For Christ did not please himself . . .” Confess to God the ways you have pleased yourself to the neglect of those in the body of Christ. Perhaps you have failed to help your weaker brother or sister when in spiritual or physical need. Maybe you have neglected to meet the needs of your neighbor or have removed yourself from hard relationships because they require too much time and energy. Whatever it is, confess any self-centeredness to the Lord as sin.

[Pray for 20 seconds.]

In verse 20, Paul states his “ambition is to preach the gospel,” specifically to those who have yet to hear the name of Jesus. Paul’s passion for the gospel is a great model for how passionately we should embrace mission and evangelism. Confess to the Lord the times you fail to prioritize sharing the gospel. Confess to him the desires, insecurities, and activities that keep you from telling others about Christ.

[Pray for 20 seconds.]

Lord, thank you that Jesus is both our model and motivation to love others and that because of his selfless death on the cross our greatest need has been met. We confess that sometimes we fail to model this love to one another. Forgive us when we do not reflect the sacrificial love of Jesus, and help us to offer ourselves everyday for the good of other people. We confess that fear, busyness, idolatry, and our desire for pleasure in this life keep us away from telling others about Jesus. We pray that you would transform our hearts more and more into your likeness and that you would use every part of our lives for the advancement of the gospel.

Thanksgiving

Romans 15:7 declares, “Therefore welcome one another as Christ has welcomed you, for the glory of God.” This verse reminds us that we have been welcomed by Jesus, despite having at one time been separated from Christ, without hope, and without God.⁴ Thank Jesus out loud for welcoming us back into fellowship with him.

³ Exod 34:6–7.

⁴ Eph 2:12.

[Pray for 15 seconds.]

Romans 15:4 says, “For whatever was written in former days was written for our instruction, that through endurance and through the encouragement of the Scriptures we might have hope.”

Thank God for his word that encourages us, gives us endurance, and reminds us of the hope we have in Jesus Christ.

[Pray for 15 seconds.]

Lord we acknowledge that at one time, we were once alienated and hostile in mind, doing evil deeds,⁵ but now because of your Son we have been welcomed into your family as sons and daughters. Thank you for this undeserved privilege. We also want to express gratitude for your Holy Word. Without it, we would not know your character or your commands. Thank you that, through your Word, you bring wisdom concerning salvation in Christ. And through your Word, you teach us, correct us, reprove us, and train us in righteousness.⁶ Thank you for equipping us for every good work through the Word and by the power of your Holy Spirit.

Supplication

In Romans 15:5–6, Paul says, “May the God of endurance and encouragement grant you to live in such harmony with one another, in accord with Christ Jesus, that together you may with one voice glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ.” Ask the Lord in your own words to deepen unity within the church so that we might reflect Jesus Christ more clearly and bring more glory to God the Father.

[Pray for 20 seconds.]

Paul writes in verse 13, “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.” Ask the God of Hope to fill you with joy and peace today, as you believe the gospel, so that by the power of the Holy Spirit, you would experience great hope in God.

[Pray for 15 seconds.]

Lord we long for unity within our churches and communities, so that Jesus Christ would be put on display and glorified. Help us to lay aside any ethnic, social, gender, or political differences that divide us, and help us to pursue the gospel that unites us. Fill us with joy and peace as we go deeper into the gospel. Cause our hope in God to abound through the power of the Holy Spirit.

⁵ Col 1:21.

⁶ 2 Tim 3:15–17.

Benediction

Gracious Father, thank you for the love and faithfulness that motivated you to send your Son Jesus in our place. It is because of the selflessness of his sacrifice that we are called to selflessly give our lives away for the sake of others, pursue unity, and preach the gospel. Give us the mind and heart of Christ, so that we would love what you love. May our lives be living demonstrations of the power of the gospel to transform selfishness into service, division into unity, and apathy into ambition, to advance the gospel to the ends of the earth—all for the glory of your name.

AMEN.

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