



# THINGS THAT MATTER AND THINGS THAT DON'T "Pleasing One Another"

Romans 15:1-7

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All Scriptures are printed verbatim with translations noted. • Pew Bible Page Number is 1047.

In the STUDY VERSE SECTION, God's Word is printed in regular faced text with Pastor Joe's commentary in the smaller faced text.

Biblical words, underlined with dots, are explained in the brackets. Pastor Joe's email is Joe@southreno.com

## REVIEW:

1. We are called to **Accept One Another, Build Up One Another, Remind One Another** and **Please\* One Another**. (\*Please can also be translated "serve.")
2. We must remember that eternity is at stake.
3. We are all going to "croak" and stand before Holy God in a judgment (for the unbeliever, it's a judgment unto death and punishment; for the believer, a judgment unto life and rewards.)
4. The foundation of this judgment is Christ being Master over all people; a forbearance is called for, due to that fact that we will all stand before Christ in judgment; and the features of this judgment are: every knee bowing, every tongue confessing and everyone giving an account of their lives to God.

**Bonus:** *What could be worse than eternity in Hell? What could be better than eternity in heaven?* A: \_\_\_\_\_!

## ***Pleasing Others—Not Ourselves!***

### **1. The Duty of Pleasing Others.**

**Romans 15:1–2, HCSB** -<sup>1</sup> Now we who are strong [in their faith—they have a lot of maturity in Christ] have an obligation [lit., a debtor under obligation—to owe someone something] to bear [the same word used in the Gospels of Jesus bearing His cross, cf., Luke 14:27] the weaknesses [those with little maturity in Christ] of those without strength, and not to please [Gk: ἀρέσκω (ha-RES-ko) a present, active complementary infinitive; lit., to serve, to please, to bless, to make content] ourselves.<sup>2</sup> Each one of us must please his neighbor for his good, to build him up.

**Romans 15:2, NCV** -<sup>2</sup> Let each of us please our neighbors for their good, to help them be stronger in faith.

- Paul is dealing with the issue of selfishness (Do you please yourself or others?)

### **2. The Demonstration of Pleasing/Serving Others.**

**Romans 15:3–4, HCSB** -<sup>3</sup> [Paul now uses a doctrinal sledgehammer to crack a behavioral nut] For even the Messiah did not please Himself. On the contrary, as it is written, **The insults of those who insult You** [ie., God] **have fallen on Me** [ie., Christ; quoting Psalm 69:9 when King David is pictured taking the abuse of the people because he stood up for God].<sup>4</sup> For whatever was written in the past was written for our instruction, so that we may have hope [this "hope" is especially needed by Christians when facing suffering in the midst of Christian and non-Christian relationships] through endurance and through the encouragement from the Scriptures.

- Notice the Example of the Savior.
- Notice the Encouragement of Scripture.

### **3. The Delight in Serving One Another.**

**Romans 15:5–7, HCSB** -<sup>5</sup> Now may the God who gives endurance and encouragement allow you to live in harmony with one [the secret of a great church is found in the little word "one" (used 4x in this passage)] another, according to the command of Christ Jesus,<sup>6</sup> so that you may glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ with a united [ie., one] mind and [one—it's repeated here] voice.<sup>7</sup> Therefore accept one another, just as the Messiah also accepted you, to the glory of God.

**Romans 15:5–7, NLT** -<sup>5</sup> 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.<sup>6</sup> Then all of you can join together with one voice, giving praise and glory to God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ.<sup>7</sup> Therefore, accept each other just as Christ has accepted you so that God will be given glory.

- Unity of Purpose [v. 5]
- Unity of Praise [v. 6]
- Unity of Practice [v. 7]

**HERE IS THE POINT** → *Paul calls us to imitate Christ in pleasing and serving other people rather than ourselves.*

### **Life Application Section**

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). – Dr. Warren W. Wiersbe