

The Book of Romans

LESSON FIFTEEN

“Following Christ’s Example”

Paul spent the first half of chapter fourteen talking about the way we are to respond to each other in the family of God, with a special emphasis on how we are to treat a brother or sister who has a difference of opinion than our own on non-essential issues. He spent the second half of chapter fourteen on our responsibility to not put a stumbling block in the way of a brother or sister in Christ that could cause them to fall. In chapter fifteen, Paul continues the topic of our relationship with one another in the household of faith.

1. In **verse 1** of this chapter, Paul summarizes his arguments in chapter fourteen. What does he say?
2. The word for “**bear**” is the Greek word “**bastazo**” and it actually means to “bear up” or to lift or carry. Paul isn’t telling us to just “tolerate” the weaknesses of a brother or sister in Christ, but to use your strength to lift them up, to uphold and help to strengthen them. We can only accomplish this when we are focused on the needs and wellbeing of others rather than ourselves. What do the following Scriptures tell us about this?

1 Corinthians 10:24 -

Galatians 6:2 -

Galatians 6:10 -

3. Paul continues this admonition in **verse 2 of Romans 15**. Record his words.
4. He said something similar to the church in Philippi in **Philippians 2:3-4**. Record those verses below.

5. In **verse 3** of our chapter in Romans, Paul turns our attention to Jesus as the example we are to follow. What does he say?

The **Bible Knowledge Commentary** points out that, **“Christ was insulted by others because of His associations with God the Father.”** This is something we often experience as well, but Paul’s point here is that Jesus **did not please Himself**. He didn’t make it His priority to vindicate or prove Himself. He didn’t make it His goal to “win an argument” to prove Himself right.

I love what **Warren Wiersbe** said about this verse. He stated, **“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.”**

6. What does **Philippians 2:5-8** tell us about the mindset Jesus had?
7. How did Jesus respond to our weaknesses? What does the author of Hebrews tell us about this in **Hebrews 4:15**? Look up and write down that verse below.
8. In **Romans 15:4** Paul turns us to the Scriptures for our source of encouragement in trying times. Write down **verse 4** below.

Again, looking at the **Bible Knowledge Commentary** it says, “**The Scriptures serve to give believers endurance (*hypomonēs*, ‘steadfastness in the face of adversities’) and encouragement so that they might have hope (pres. tense, ‘keep on having hope.’ As Christians learn from the *past* (what is written in the OT about others who did not please themselves) they are motivated to endure and be comforted in the *present*, looking ahead in hope (confidence) to the *future*.”**

Albert Barnes adds, “**By the example of the ancient saints, by the expression of their confidence in God, by their patience, “we” may learn to suffer, and may not only be “instructed,” but may find “comfort” in all our trials.**”

9. What does Paul tell us concerning the Scriptures in **2 Timothy 3:16-17**?

10. What does Paul tell us about the comfort we receive from God in **2 Corinthians 1:3-4**?

11. How does Paul sum up his thoughts on this subject in **Romans 15:5**?

12. As we look at **Romans 15:6-7**, Paul points us to the reason for the admonitions he has given us in **verses 1-5**. Write down **verses 6 & 7** below.

13. As members of God's family, coming together in the **unity of the Spirit** glorifies God. Likewise, when we allow divisions and discord to enter into our fellowship, it is very dishonoring to God. What do these verses tell us about keeping the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace?

Ephesians 4:1-3 -

Ephesians 4:15-16 -

As we now move to **Romans 15:8-12**, it appears that some of the friction in the church that Paul may have been addressing in his exhortation to unity, was between the Jewish and the Gentile believers. The **Bible Knowledge Commentary** states, **“God had two objectives to accomplish through Jesus’ ministry. The first was to confirm the promises made to the patriarchs. God’s second objective in Christ’s ministry was so that the Gentiles may glorify God for His mercy.”**

14. Paul uses four quotes from the Old Testament to confirm his points. His first quote is from David's song of deliverance in **2 Samuel 22:50**, which was repeated again by David in **Psalms 18:49**. Record this quote from **Romans 15:9**.
15. The second quote Paul uses is from Moses in his song to the people of Israel, recorded in **Deuteronomy 32:43**. Write down this quote from Paul's words in **Romans 15:10**.
16. Paul's third quote is a quote from **Psalms 117:1-2**. This is the shortest of all the psalms in the Old Testament, written by an unknown psalmist. Record Paul's quote from **Romans 15:11**.

17. The fourth quote is from the prophet Isaiah and is a Messianic prophecy recorded in **Isaiah 11:10**. Record this quote spoken by Paul in **Romans 15:12**.

18. Paul concludes this section with a prayer in **Romans 15:13**. Record his prayer below.

David Guzik comments: **“The prayer and blessing concluding the section is appropriate. As God fills us with the blessings of His joy and peace in believing, we are equipped to live in this common bond of unity God calls us to.”**

19. As we come to **verses 14-16**, Paul tells his readers his purpose in writing them this letter. He begins his statement of purpose by making clear to them that he has great confidence in their spiritual knowledge and the maturity of their faith. Write down his words in **verse 14**.

20. In **verse 15**, he points out that although he has confidence in them, he felt the need to remind them about some important issues regarding how we are to live. Record his words in **verse 15**.

21. In **verse 16**, he tells them why he felt these admonitions were so important. What is the reason that he gives them in **verse 16**?

Note that Paul references all three Persons of the triune God in this verse. Jesus Christ, God (the Father), and the Spirit of God.

Paul felt a great responsibility in his call to minister to the Gentiles, not only to present the Gospel to them, but to instruct them in godly living. The language he uses here is noteworthy. When he calls himself a minister to the Gentiles, the word he uses for “minister” is *leitourgon*, meaning “a public servant.” When he states he was ministering the Gospel of Christ to them, he uses a different word, the Greek word *hierourgounta*, which means to officiate as a priest. He took this calling to the Gentiles very seriously so that the work he had invested in them would prove to be an acceptable offering to the Lord, one the Lord had sanctified (set him apart) for through the Holy Spirit.

22. In **verse 17**, Paul glorifies his ministry to the Gentiles. He glorified God for what he had allowed him to accomplish through the power of the Holy Spirit. Record Paul’s words in **verse 17**.

23. In **verse 18** Paul makes clear that he will only glory in the things that he was enabled to do by God. He takes no glory in anything done by his own efforts, but stands amazed by what God has done through him in bringing salvation to the Gentiles. In **verse 19**, Paul points to the miraculous way God used him in his preaching of the Gospel to the Gentiles. What does he say?

24. Illyricum is modern day Yugoslavia and Albania, which means that Paul was saying his ministry to the Gentiles went as far west as these two nations and as far east as Jerusalem. Quite a territory! Looking at **verse 20**, we’re reminded that Paul was always very careful not to try to build upon another man’s foundation. What examples do we find of this in the following verses?

1 Corinthians 3:10-11

2 Corinthians 10:14-16 -

25. In **Romans 15:21**, Paul quotes from **Isaiah 52:15**. Look up this verse in Isaiah and record it below.
26. Paul has been busy preaching the Gospel in all the areas the Holy Spirit has taken him into. He states in **Romans 15:22** that this is the reason why he has not yet had time to come and visit them. Looking at **verses 23 & 24**, what does he tell them concerning his future plans?
27. Paul describes some of the commitments he needs to take care of before he is able to come visit them. What does he tell them he needs to do first, found in **verses 25 & 26**?
28. An important part of his ministry to the believers in Jerusalem was to stop in Corinth to pick up a monetary gift the believers in Macedonia and Achaia had collected for the poor believers who were struggling in Jerusalem. What does he say to them concerning this voluntary donation? Record what Paul says in **verse 27**.
29. Constable's Commentary notes that, "**The money that Paul was collecting was both a love-gift and an obligation. He could say that the givers owed it because the gospel had come from Jerusalem and Judea to the Gentiles.**" This also is in harmony with Paul's exhortation to the church in Corinth in **1 Corinthians 9:11** and the church of Galatia in **Galatians 6:6**. Record those verses below.

1 Corinthians 9:11 -

Galatians 6:6 -

30. In **verses 28 & 29**, Paul assures them that as soon as he has completed his trip to Jerusalem he will come to them as he passes through Spain. How does Paul say he will be coming to them in **verse 29**?

31. Paul did get to Rome, but not as he had planned. We read of Paul's arrest in Jerusalem in **Acts 21**. **Acts 23** tells us he was then taken to Caesarea, before Governor Felix, and then in **Acts 28** we read that Paul is finally sent to Rome as a prisoner. **Romans 15:29** tells us that Paul had anticipated arriving in Rome with a heart full of blessing after having delivered the donations to Jerusalem that had been collected for them. Paul no doubt shared the Gospel all along the way at every opportunity. Although arriving in Rome as a prisoner was never in Paul's plans, we do know that he experienced a lot of fruitful ministry there, even in his difficult circumstances. What does **Proverbs 16:9** tell us about our plans?

32. What does the familiar verse of **Romans 8:28** add to that? Write down that verse below and share how this speaks to your heart.

33. As we read **Romans 15:30-32**, we get the impression that Paul was aware that he was in need of much prayer support for this journey to Jerusalem. Record his request of them in these verses.

34. Paul didn't know, as he was writing this letter, all that was awaiting him in Jerusalem. He had been given a prophecy in **Acts 21** by the prophet Agabus concerning what would occur. Read and record this event found in **Acts 21:10-11**.

35. Those hearing the prophecy from Agabus pleaded with Paul not to go, but what was Paul's response, found in **Acts 21:13**?

36. Paul didn't see the potential for danger as a reason to cancel his trip to minister this gift to Jerusalem that would benefit the struggling saints there. And God used his time in Jerusalem, even as a prisoner, to boldly proclaim the Gospel, and he continued to have great opportunities to do so in both Caesarea and in Rome. God works all things together for good to those who love Him and are called to His service. We don't always see the good, but He reminds us in **Isaiah 55:9**, “ **For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are My ways higher than your ways, and My thoughts than your thoughts.**” Paul ends this chapter in Romans with the benediction of **verse 33**. Write down that benediction below.

37. What did Jesus say to us about the peace that He gives? Record **John 14:27** and share how His peace has ministered to your heart.

38. How has the study of **Romans 15** spoken to you? What is your take-away from this chapter?

This study was written and prepared by Shawn Van Hook, 2026

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