

Romans

(47) Instructions and examples on unity in the Spirit

Practical instructions on how to get along...15:1-7

First, to the strong (in faith) believer, what's his instruction? vs.1a, 2 Phil.2:3-4

We are to help carry the burdens of the weak. Not just tolerate! Genuine, loving, help...

What are we naturally prone to do instead? vs.1b ICor.9:19-22

We tend to please ourselves. Prove that we're right, and they're wrong!

Is this about compromising our Christian walk? Gal.1:10

Absolutely not. This is about giving up our "rights", our freedoms in Christ, for others.

What is the goal of the action of the strong in bearing the burdens of the weak? vs.2

It is to build them up. Edify. It is for their good, not ours. Edify them by example.

Who is the supreme example of 'giving up their rights'? vs.3 Ps.69:9

Christ is the Perfect example. He took the insults intended for the Father. Willingly.

Paraphrase vs.4. What does this teach us? ICor.10:11

All the OT was written to teach us (NT believers). Gives us endurance and encouragement.

Now the instruction: What is Paul's prayer for them here? vs.5-6 (regarding disputable issues)

May the God who gives endurance/encouragement also give you a spirit of unity.

If we have trouble accepting one another, what's Paul's reminder? vs.7

Accept others just as Christ accepted you! He overlooked your weaknesses. Amen!!

Paul now addresses a specific issue at Rome...15:8-13

In order to bring unity to the believing Jews and Gentiles, what's his next point? vs.8-9

Christ became servant of the Jews, 1. fill promises to Israel 2. so Gentiles may glorify God

To the Jew, how does he confirm this teaching? vs.9

As it is written, ie the OT Scriptures. Quotes David, Ps.18:49. Praise God among Gentiles.

And his second quote is from whom? vs.10 Deut.32:43

It's from Moses. Rejoice, O Gentiles with His people (Jews). Prophetic for sure.

And his third quote is from whom? vs.11 Ps.117 (middle and shortest chapter)

From David. Praise the Lord, all nations (Gentiles). David, predicting Gentile praise!

And finally, his fourth quote is from whom? vs.12 Is.11:10

From Isaiah. This is a messianic section of prophecy. Gentiles will hope in Him.

What is Paul's point in this series of OT quotes? vs.13

Gentile salvation was always the plan. Moses, David, Isaiah all predicted it. Get along!!

In spite of all this prophecy, what was NEVER revealed? Eph:3:1-6

That the Gentiles would be fellow members (with the Jews) of the Church, body of Christ.