

## The Building Up of God's People (Romans 15)

### I. God is Building His People in the Body (v. 1-6)

#### A. The Provision for God's People (v. 1-4)

##### 1. The Church is Given to Support Believers (v. 1-3)

###### a. Believer's have a duty to build up each other

###### i. The Strong believer has a duty to the weak (v. 1)

- Remember the definitions of strong and weak in ch. 14

- The Strong must do everything in his power not to cause the weak to stumble or sin.

- The Strong must put the needs of the weak before their own pleasure

- They are not to please themselves while harming the conscience of another.

###### b. All Believers have a duty to each other (v. 2)

###### i. We are to please our neighbor rather than ourselves

- this is in matters of conscience and sin

- we are to do what edifies them rather than ourselves.

NOTICE: it says we are to do this "for his good" for the purpose of his edification

###### c. Believers Must follow Christ's unselfish Example (v. 3)

###### i. Christ did not please himself but gave himself

###### ii. Believers give themselves for the good of others

###### iii. This is laying down ones life (so to speak) for another

##### 2. The Scripture is Given to Support Believers (v. 4)

###### a. The things written are for our instruction

###### b. The scripture brings endurance for the believer

###### c. The scripture brings encouragement for the believer

###### d. through these things, the scripture brings hope

### II. God is Unifying His People in the Body (v. 7-13)

#### A. God's People are Being brought Together (7-12)

##### 1. Believers must receive one another (v. 7)

###### a. The same way that believers receive each other despite differences

###### b. Believers receive each other despite race or nationality (i.e. Jew or Gentile)

###### c. Believers receive each other because Christ received us

###### d. Believers bring glory to God by receiving one another

##### 2. Christ Came to Receive all Believers Alike (Jew and Gentile) (8-12)

###### a. Christ came to the Jews in fulfillment of God's promise (v. 8)

###### i. The promises to Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob

b. Christ has come to the Gentiles in fulfillment of God's promise (v. 9-12)

i. Paul gives a list of OT promises to the Gentiles

ii. v. 9 – cited from 2 Sam. 22:50 and Ps. 18:49

iii. v. 10 cited from Deut 32:43

iv. v. 11 – cited from Psalm 117:1

v. v. 12 – cited from Isa. 11:10

Paul is proving that from the beginning God has designed to call all men to Himself

B. The Results of Being United in Christ (v. 13)

1. Being filled with all joy and hope in believing

2. Being united in the power of the Holy Spirit to the hope of God

III. God is Using His People to Build the Body (v. 14-33)

A. God uses the Gospel Ministry to Build the Body (v. 14-21)

1. Paul commends the Roman Church's maturity (v. 14)

2. Paul also understands his calling to preach to the Gentiles (v. 15)

a. He has spoken boldly in some parts so that they will understand that all men are being called into the body

b. He wants them to understand that all nations are being called

c. The gospel is making them an acceptable offering to God (v. 16)

3. Paul Glories in God's work through Him to the Gentiles (v. 17-19)

4. Paul's only ambition for God is to preach to the nations (v. 20-21)

B. God uses Fellowship to Build the Body (v. 22-24)

1. Paul desires to have fellowship with the Body (v. 22-23)

a. Paul wanted to come to them but was hindered by his work

b. Paul is completing his work and is excited about coming to fellowship with them.

c. Paul understands that fellowship builds up the body

2. Paul desires to be helped by the body (v. 24)

a. He not only wants to bless them, but for them to bless him as well.

C. God uses the Church Itself to Build the Body (v. 25-33)

1. The Body Supports one another materially (v. 25-27)

a. Paul is bringing aid to the impoverished saints in Jerusalem (v. 25)

b. Other churches have contributed to their need through Paul (v. 26)

c. Paul demonstrates that believers actually "owe" it to one another. The Gentiles have become inheritors with the Jewish believers, therefore they should contribute to aid in their suffering. (v. 27)

d. What does this say to us today about our giving? Notice the words Paul uses in v. 27

2. The Body Supports one another Prayerfully (v. 28-33)
  - a. Paul makes plans to travel through Rome and see them with the blessings of Christ (v. 28)
  - b. Paul appeals to them to “strive with him” in prayer (v. 30)
    - i. Believers intercede for each other
    - ii. Believers pray for each others needs
  - c. Paul wants them to pray for the mission (v. 31)
    - i. The mission is building up the body
    - ii. The mission is being built up by the body (v. 32)