

We Are One in the Bond of Love (Romans 15:1-13)

The implicit theme of Romans 14:1-15:13 is Christian unity. Disagreements concerning personal convictions and personal preferences over matters in which the Scripture gives no explicit command, quickly threatens the unity of the body of Christ. Christian unity is so absolutely vital to the church that (1) Jesus prayed for it (John 17:11, 20-21) (2) the Holy Spirit gave it (Eph. 4:3) & (3) the apostles admonished the churches to preserve it.

Paul's prescription for preserving Christian unity:

1. Preserve unity by following Christ's example of selflessness. (Romans 15:1-3)

- Bear the burdens of the weak (immature in the faith). (v. 1)
- Build up one another. (v. 2)
- Please the Lord, not ourselves. (v. 1)

2. Preserve unity by following the instruction of Scripture. (Romans 15:4)

3. Preserve unity for the sake of God's glory. (Romans 15:5-13)

- As seen in our own salvation (v. 7)
- As seen in God's redemptive covenant (vv. 8-13)