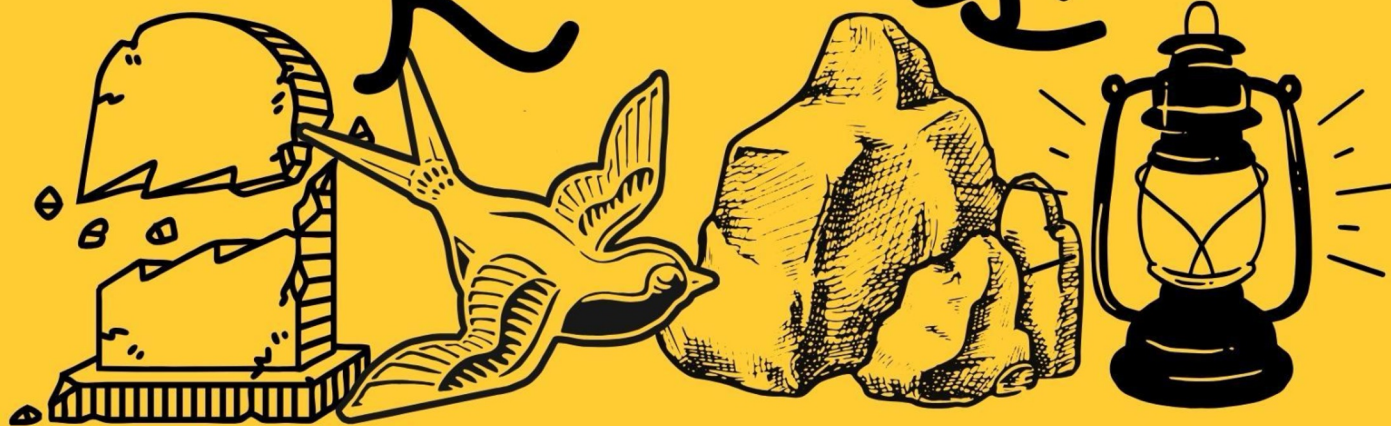


Romans

SERMON SERIES

Romans



A HOPE SERMON SERIES

Romans



LIVING IN
COMMUNITY

Last week's message:
Unity without Uniformity

Romans 14

Romans 14:1-2

¹As for the one who is weak in faith, welcome him, but not to quarrel over opinions. ²One person believes he may eat anything, while the weak person eats only vegetables...

A black t-shirt with a white crew neck and short sleeves. The front of the shirt features a bold, white, sans-serif text design. The text is arranged in five lines, centered on the chest. The first line reads "I COULD", the second "AGREE", the third "WITH YOU,", the fourth "BUT THEN", and the fifth "WE'D BOTH BE WRONG".

**I COULD
AGREE
WITH YOU,
BUT THEN
WE'D BOTH
BE WRONG**

“The scenario that best explains all the evidence of the text in its first-century context, then, would run something like this: Jewish Christians in Rome, convinced that the torah was still authoritative for Christians, claimed that a sincere Christian should avoid meat and wine and should observe the Sabbath and Jewish holy days... These Jewish Christians, however, ended up as a minority in the Roman church, and the dominant gentile majority thought that such requirements were a ridiculous holdover from Judaism... Undoubtedly it was these gentile Christians who labeled the other group in the church with the pejorative term “weak.” They, for their part, prided themselves on being “strong.”

“Paul makes clear his agreement with the strong (cf. 14:14; 15:1). He has taught in Romans itself that Christians are not “under the law” (6:14), and he himself does not always follow the practices of the Jewish law (see 1 Cor. 9:19–23). Nevertheless, Paul’s overriding concern in this passage is not with who is right and who is wrong. He is concerned about unity. He does not think that these particular issues are worth fighting over. Furthermore, he is particularly annoyed with the strong for their attitude of condescension toward the weak and the lack of love they are displaying toward them.”

~ Douglas J. Moo, *Encountering the Book of Romans: A Theological Survey*, ed. Walter A. Elwell, Second Edition., *Encountering Biblical Studies* (Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Academic, 2014), 180.

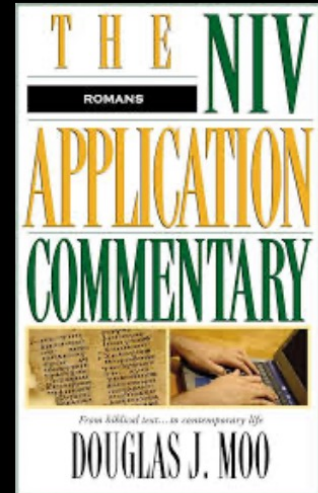
**Being right is more important than the
destruction you cause**

Romans 14:20a

²⁰Do not, for the sake of food, destroy the work of God.

“Destroy” [used here], applied to the church, probably means “ruin” — disputes over food bring disunity, mutual distrust, and, eventually, the break-up of a congregation.

Douglas J. Moo, *Romans*, The NIV Application Commentary. (Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan Publishing House, 2000). 461.





Love without truth is a lie,
but truth without love is a weapon.

This week's message:
*Living an upside-down life
for the sake of unity!*

Romans 15:1-13

Romans 15:1-13

¹We who are strong have an obligation to bear with the failings of the weak, and not to please ourselves. ²Let each of us please his neighbor for his good, to build him up.

Romans 15:1-13

³For Christ did not please himself, but as it is written, “The reproaches of those who reproached you fell on me.” ⁴For whatever was written in former days was written for our instruction, that through endurance and through the encouragement of the Scriptures we might have hope. ⁵May the God of endurance and encouragement grant you to live in such harmony with one another, in accord with Christ Jesus, ⁶that together you may with one voice glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ. ⁷Therefore welcome one another as Christ has welcomed you, for the glory of God.

Romans 15:1-13

⁸For I tell you that Christ became a servant to the circumcised to show God's truthfulness, in order to confirm the promises given to the patriarchs, ⁹and in order that the Gentiles might glorify God for his mercy. As it is written,

“Therefore I will praise you among the Gentiles,
and sing to your name.”

Romans 15:1-13

¹⁰And again it is said,
“Rejoice, O Gentiles, with his people.”

¹¹And again,
Praise the Lord, all you Gentiles,
and let all the peoples extol him.”

¹²And again Isaiah says,
“The root of Jesse will come, even he who arises to rule the
Gentiles; in him will the Gentiles hope.”

*Living an upside-down life
for the sake of unity!*

What? – Romans 15:1-2

Why? How? – Romans 15:3-7

Who? – Romans 15:8-13

What? – Romans 15:1-2

Romans 15:1-2

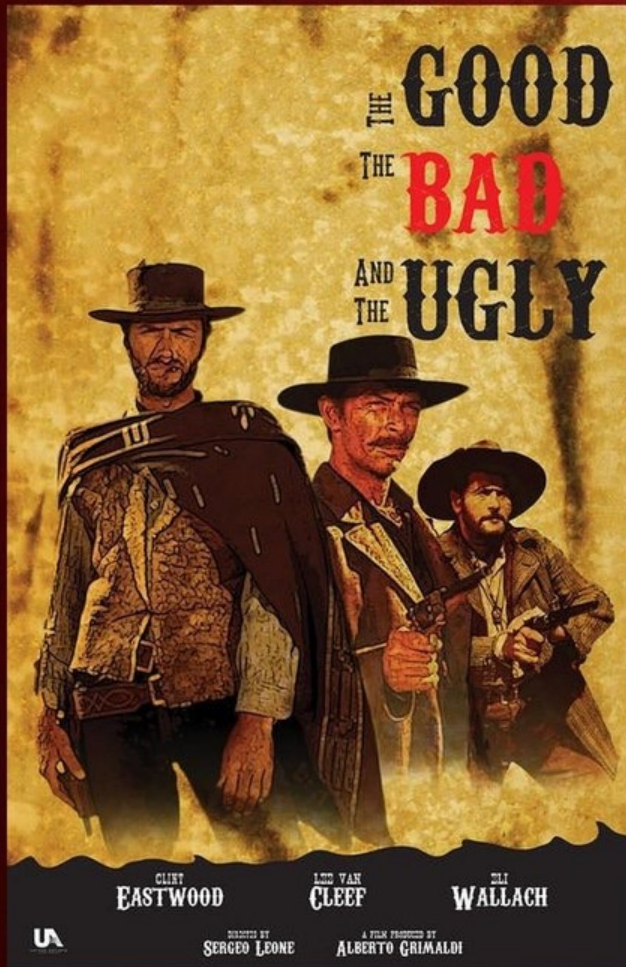
¹We who are strong have an obligation to bear with the failings of the weak, and not to please ourselves. ²Let each of us please his neighbor for his good, to build him up.

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MISTAKES

IT COULD BE THAT THE PURPOSE OF YOUR LIFE IS
ONLY TO SERVE AS A WARNING TO OTHERS.



CLINT EASTWOOD



A FILM BY SERGIO LEONE

Romans 15:1-2

¹We who are strong have an obligation to bear with the failings of the weak, and not to please ourselves. ²Let each of us please his neighbor for his good, to build him up.

A close-up photograph of several pink peonies with yellow centers, filling the background. A large, solid pink circle is centered over the image, containing white text.

**LOVE
WILL SET
YOU FREE!**

MY HAPPY SOUL

"A Christian man is the most free lord of all, and subject to none. A Christian man is the most dutiful servant of all, and subject to all."

~From *On the Freedom of a Christian Man* in H. Ware and C. A. Buchheim, eds., *First Principles of the Reformation* (London: John Murray, 1883), www.fordam.edu/halsall/mod/luther-freedomchristian.asp.



Romans 15:1-2

¹We who are strong have an obligation to bear with the failings of the weak, and not to please ourselves. ²Let each of us please his neighbor for his good, to build him up.

ἄρέσκω, aresko

① **to act in a fawning manner, *win favor, please, flatter*, w. focus on the winning of approval**

② **to give pleasure/satisfaction, *please, accommodate*.**

~ William Arndt et al., *A Greek-English Lexicon of the New Testament and Other Early Christian Literature* (Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 2000), 129.

Pleasant Words

Loving
Affectionate
Tranquil
Elated
Relaxed
Excited
Calm
Enthusiastic
At rest
Warm-hearted

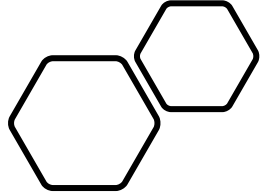
Unpleasant Words

Angry
Hostile
Envious
Unhappy
Sad
Jealous
Depressed
Distressed
Fearful
Agitated



WARNING

**IT'S ALL
ABOUT ME**



"But enough about
me, let's talk about
you..."



"But enough about
me, let's talk about
you..."

what do you think
of me?"

~ Bette Midler in *Beaches*





What? – Romans 15:1-2

Why? How? – Romans 15:3-7

The Example of Jesus

Romans 15:3

³For Christ did not please himself, but as it is written, “The reproaches of those who reproached you fell on me.” ⁴For whatever was written in former days was written for our instruction, that through endurance and through the encouragement of the Scriptures we might have hope. ⁵May the God of endurance and encouragement grant you to live in such harmony with one another, in accord with Christ Jesus, ⁶that together you may with one voice glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ. ⁷Therefore welcome one another as Christ has welcomed you, for the glory of God.

The Example of Jesus

Hebrews 12:2-3

²Let us fix our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy set before him endured the cross, scorning its shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God. ³Consider him who endured such opposition from sinful men, so that you will not grow weary and lose heart.

Pleasure

Verses

Joy

It's not about me...



...and it never has been!

The Power of Scripture

Romans 15:3b-4

³For Christ did not please himself, but as it is written, “The reproaches of those who reproached you fell on me.” ⁴For whatever was written in former days was written for our instruction, that through endurance and through the encouragement of the Scriptures we might have hope. ⁵May the God of endurance and encouragement grant you to live in such harmony with one another, in accord with Christ Jesus, ⁶that together you may with one voice glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ. ⁷Therefore welcome one another as Christ has welcomed you, for the glory of God.

Welcome as you have been welcomed

Romans 15:3b-4

³For Christ did not please himself, but as it is written, “The reproaches of those who reproached you fell on me.” ⁴For whatever was written in former days was written for our instruction, that through endurance and through the encouragement of the Scriptures we might have hope. ⁵May the God of endurance and encouragement grant you to live in such harmony with one another, in accord with Christ Jesus, ⁶that together you may with one voice glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ. ⁷Therefore welcome one another as Christ has welcomed you, for the glory of God.



What? – Romans 15:1-2

Why? How? – Romans 15:3-7

Who? – Romans 15:8-13

Romans 15:8-13

⁸For I tell you that Christ became a servant to the circumcised to show God's truthfulness, in order to confirm the promises given to the patriarchs, ⁹and in order that the Gentiles might glorify God for his mercy. As it is written,

“Therefore I will praise you among the Gentiles,
and sing to your name.”

[Psalm 18:49]

Romans 15:8-13

¹⁰And again it is said,

“Rejoice, O Gentiles, with his people.” [Deuteronomy 32:43]

¹¹And again,

Praise the Lord, all you Gentiles,
and let all the peoples extol him.” [Psalm 117:1]

¹²And again Isaiah says,

“The root of Jesse will come, even he who arises to rule the
Gentiles; in him will the Gentiles hope.” [Isaiah 11:10]

Romans 15:8-13

¹³May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that by the power of the Holy Spirit you may abound in hope.



سَلَام

שלום

Gospel Application

Gospel Application

How much are you simply enthralled by Jesus?


Gospel Application


How much are you simply enthralled by Jesus?

What might fixing your eyes on Jesus look like? How would that play out as you live not just for yourself but for others?


So the principle of Romans **15:1** is sweeping because it applies in every area of life, to everyone that we meet:

- *Finances*: Christians with money are to look at their money as given to them by God to enrich and lift up those without it (see Paul's discussion of his raising of a financial gift for the poor Christians in Jerusalem, v **25-28**).


- 
- *Church leadership:* Christians in church leadership are not to arrange the ministry simply to make themselves happy and comfortable, but with the outsider and the skeptic in mind.



■ *Relationships: We are not simply to relate to “our own kind” or to people who give to us and build us up emotionally. We must be willing to love and relate to people who are draining. A Christian does not walk into a room and immediately ask: Are these people I want to be seen with? Are these people I will enjoy? but rather: How can I help and build up these people? Who might I be able to serve in some way?*



■ *Choice of residence:* Instead of asking: *Where would I be most comfortable living?* we should ask: *Where could I be most useful to God and others?* That is why many Christians stay in the city. “Community development” is a ministry in which Christians who have the economic strength to live elsewhere choose to move into an economically devastated neighborhood and give their lives to rebuild it. It is based on the principle in this text.



■ *Relationships in the church:* Paul applied this principle in chapter 14 to one particular case. In the church, we are not to seek to win arguments with Christians who differ, but respect them, reconsider our own positions and, if differences persist, seek to accommodate ourselves to the sensitivities of others.

~ Timothy Keller, *Romans 8–16 for You*, ed. Carl Laferton, *God's Word for You* (The Good Book Company, 2015), 161–162.