

sermon notes

May 9, 2021 | Pastor Tony Caffey, Harvest Decatur
Wholly Transformed | "Paul's Plea for Unity (Part 3)" | Romans 15:1-13

1. Be united in Christ for _____ (15:1-4)
2. Be united in Christ for _____ (15:5-7)
3. Be united in Christ for _____ (15:8-12)
4. Be united in Christ for _____ (15:13)

Eight disunifying ways that churches discriminate against one another:

- 1)
- 2)
- 3)
- 4)
- 5)
- 6)
- 7)
- 8)

Questions for further application of God's Word:

GO DEEPER

Read Romans 15:1-3. How might a "strong believer" bear with the failings of the "weak believer"? How did Jesus model "bearing with the failings of the weak"? What would have happened to us if Jesus sought to please himself instead of pleasing the Father?

Paul links church unity (harmony) to worship in Romans 15:4-12. What are some words that he uses for "worship" (e.g. praise)? How does unity help us to glorify God? Is disunity in the church dishonoring to God? What does God's Word say about those who cause disunity (see Prov 6:16-19)?

What passages from the OT does Paul quote in Romans 15:8-13? What theme (or themes) runs through all of those Scriptures? Why does Paul quote the OT so frequently in Romans?

GET PERSONAL

Is perfect unity in the church possible? What keeps us from being unified? What keeps you from feeling unified in your church? How might you strive for better unity in your church?

What are some things that you do that are disunifying in the church? Confess those before the Lord. What do other believers do to you that make you feel disunified in your relationship with them?

PUT IT INTO PRACTICE

Paul prays twice in this passage (see 15:5-6 and 15:13). How could you pray similar prayers for your church? Take a moment to recite these two prayers out loud, but then rephrase them in your own words and personalize them. Pray specifically for your church community and the members of your church.

ADVANCED QUESTION

Paul quotes several passages from the OT that reference Gentiles worshiping and praising God. Do Gentiles praise God (Yahweh) in the OT? Do Gentiles get saved in the OT? Was it God's plan all along to save Gentiles as well as Jews? How do you know? See the following article "The Gentiles' Full Inclusion" to help you answer these questions:

<https://www.ligonier.org/learn/devotionals/gentiles-full-inclusion/>