**Romans 15:1-21: Our love helps other believers to grow and to glorify God**

**OUTLINE: Romans 15:1-13 – Seeking the glory of God**

* **By accepting others as Christ has accepted us 15:1-7**
* **By worshipping together 15:8-11**
* **By overflowing with hope 15:12-13**

**Accepting others as Christ has accepted us 15:1-7**

**Romans 15:1-2**

* **When we have stronger consciences, we can’t just do whatever we want.**
* **Stronger believers should always do what is best for the growth of their brothers.**
* **(14:13, 15-16, 19-21). The goal isn’t to just please ourselves!**
* **Growth, then, deliverance from wrath, is what we should desire for our brethren, as we do for ourselves. We can help others with their freedom!**
* **The spirit of Christian love is shown when we seek to further the growth of our brethren.**
* **This may require we to sacrifice our pleasure v. 2**

**15:3 -** **Any criticism of God’s name should be our concern - v. 3**

* **This concern is modeled by Jesus when he used both his physical and spiritual strength to act for God - (Ps. 69:9; Jn. 2:17)**
* **We should take action to remove or prevent criticism of God’s name.**
* **This action may involve the sacrifice of personal pleasure or personal rights.**
* **(cf. 14:16)**
* **The OT gives us insight into the motivations of Jesus - v. 4 Those ought to be ours.**
* **We often do what we do to please ourselves, even if it is sinful.**
* **It can be helpful to ask, “Why do I enjoy doing this?” “What type of satisfaction do I draw from this?”**

**15:3-4 As the OT teaches us, we can acquire patience and encouragement to make the personal sacrifices needed to bear the weaknesses of the weaker brother.**

* **The value of this is that, when we act this way, we help to avoid bringing criticism on God’s name.**
* **When we act this way, it is noticed and will be rewarded. In other words, we can act in hope! As in earlier sections (Rom. 8:17-39), the Kingdom is a focus.**

**15:5-6 - Our sacrifices of lifestyle to others bring a spirit of unity and respect for one another.**

* **This reflects the attitude of Jesus toward us!**
* **The result of this attitude is that in our worship together there will be a spirit of oneness and God will be glorified. That’s “church” as God intended!**

**Worshipping/praising God together 15:8-11**

**15:7-8 The model of Jesus in unqualified acceptance, for which we glorify God, is a pattern for us toward others.**

* **Despite being powerless and godless (Rom. 5:6-8), Christ died for us and then accepted us.**
* **The example of Jesus is a pattern for us!**

**Overflowing with hope 15:12-13 – We get excited about our future expectation**

**15:7-13 - Jesus extended unhindered acceptance to us as Gentiles.**

* **Our worship as Gentiles should flow out of the realization that “salvation is of the Jews”.**
* **We should thank God for the mercy we’ve received in getting “crumbs from the children’s table”. Gentiles! 15:11**
* **Praise to God goes beyond emotions and extends to our corporate fellowship 15:8-12 “Praise” total 278. Psalms = 164 of 278 = about 59%**
  + **God is worthy - Ps. 18:3**
  + **Praise in the Assembly - Ps. 22:22, 25; Gentiles! Rom. 15:11**
  + **We should praise Him - Ps. 30:4, for His goodness 30:11-12**

**15:14-17 –** **Paul refers us back to his original purpose in proclaiming good news that will deliver us from enslavement (wrath).**

* **Romans teaches us, as does Galatians, that Paul’s concern extended beyond simply wanting people to have eternal life (though he certainly wanted that!) Rom. 15:16 is key to understanding Paul’s mission.**
* **Paul wanted to see people experience the power and freedom that a believer has and that one can experience from his new birth and the risen Christ! In other words, Paul wanted to make disciples!**

**The end of it all is the glory of God!**