

Chapter 15 No hierarchy in Christianity, except for (44) Jesus Christ who is the Head (And even then, He gives us equal standing by calling us joint heirs (Romans 8:17)):

Romans 15:1 So if we are Spiritually "mature" it is only because the Holy Spirit has given us wisdom. And since it's a gift, we must joyfully share our understanding with "newbies." AS EQUALS! (This "wisdom" is free for the asking and without limit (James 1:1-7))

Romans 15:2-3 This is the "servant" mindset that Jesus taught by leading in example. (P.S.: the word minister means to serve).
as a noun: a member of clergy, as a verb: to attend to the needs of.

Romans 15:4 This is crucial in many many ways! Scripture is given to us to teach, warn, comfort and guide us. "Everything written in the past" refers to us "learning from the mistakes made in the past. Especially, because "there is nothing new under the Sun" and history repeats itself. The "days of Noah" are coming around again. The Tower of Babel is being set up again" and in a non-Biblical example The 1930's Germany is coming to the United States. Scripture also teaches us right from wrong, God's way from man's way, what we are to focus on and most importantly the ability to discern the truth from the lie (a good rule of thumb is that if the majority is doing it, it's probably W.O.K.E.. Scripture also is given to us to encourage us and to give us hope, so that we know how it all ends and that we have that "blessed hope" that Christ will appear and remove us from God's wrath.

Romans 15:5-7 Again, a repeat of "equal standing" in Christ, by the example He started! Jesus always sought His Father's will, Jesus always left the 99 if there was 1 to be found, Jesus always protected the vulnerable and exemplified how being the least in man's eyes resulted in being the greatest in God's eyes; and doing so glorifies God.

Romans 15:8: Jesus fulfilled what the nation of Israel refused to do (become a nation of priests, so that all of the nations could be blessed. (Genesis 22:13-19 printout))
(I wonder if Israel was punished for their arrogance in thinking that only they could be saved? Paul was constantly abused for going to the Gentiles.

Romans 15:9-12 The Old Testament was peppered with God prophesying that He wanted to be the God for all of mankind. Jew first, then Gentile. (45)

Romans 15:13 hope, joy, perfect peace, and again hope comes by Trusting in the Lord.

Romans 15:14-16 The language here (english translation) is not as clear as what Paul is trying to say, so I will try and simplify it. Paul is saying that even though we are saved, "full of knowledge" and "able to teach one another" we must never forget that we are a living sacrifice to God. We are an offering (living sacrifice) "that pleases God" and the Holy Spirit validates this.

Romans 15:17: I can take pride in what I do for God because I belong to Jesus.

Romans 15:18 I will give my testimony, and continue to make clear that I have been chosen to lead the Gentiles to God.


Romans 15:19-20 "He has given me power, ..." This sentence belongs to every single one of us! God has given us everything that we need (equipped us) to do all things (including signs and wonders) to preach the good news to others.

Romans 15:21 Again, our mission here on earth. (Isaiah 52:15)

Romans 15:22 This takes us right back to chapter 1. Paul was looking forward to getting back to the churches in Rome. Maybe even as a retreat. But he has been "kept from coming to" them because there were many places that still had no knowledge (verse 21). Little did he know that when he finally would make it to Rome it would be as a prisoner. And he also didn't know that by preaching in prison he would reach exponentially more lost people than if he went to the churches at Rome!

Romans 15:23-24 This just confirms verse 22's mindset.

Romans 15:25-26 Paul notes physical journeys to help theologians put together his "walk" centuries later. God often puts in details that help us to paint a more complete picture of what is going on.

Uh-Oh Rabbit trail ahead: 

Rabbit trail: In Genesis 5 & 11, Ruth 4, 1 Chronicles 1-3 (46) Matthew 1 and Luke 3 we are given genealogies.

These Genealogies are placed there for several reasons, including but definitely not limited to: ① Giving us a 6,000 year historical timeline. He did so starting in 4004 B.C. to obliterate any "Billions of years" or "Evolution" discussions. He also did so to point out that all of time is based on Jesus Christ (B.C and A.D), set up a 7 day week, a timeline for a calendar year, and a measurement for weeks, months, and even hours. ② God's genealogies also help us to see His prophecies being fulfilled with surgical precision: The genealogy of Jesus (Luke 3:23-28 - printout) and His lineage qualifying Him to be the Messiah. In Isaiah 44:28 + 45:1 King Cyrus is named 2 centuries before he would reign. Through Genealogies we also know creation 4004 B.C., Noah 2350 B.C., Tower of Babel 2175 B.C., Abraham 2000 B.C., Moses 1500 B.C., King David 1000 B.C., 400 years of silence 400 B.C., The triumphant entry at 33 A.D., to the day, 483 years after the building of the walls of Jerusalem as described by Daniel along with the Messiah being cut off and the 70th week of Daniels prophecy (the 7 year tribulation) - found in Daniel chapter 9. ③ And God's genealogies not only place people in a time slot on the calendar of events but also cement the fact that what these people prophesied was done so hundreds and even 1,000 years in advance. With 100% accuracy. ④ And most importantly to give us complete assurance that every word in God's Holy Book is God Breathed, and without error. And in keeping with that notion, He also tells us of things to come so that we can function in them with complete faith that He's got every last detail covered and that we have absolutely nothing to fear.

Romans 15:27: Paul reminds us that there are no longer Jew or Gentile. As a matter of fact he points out that the gentile believers took up an offering for the poor Jewish congregation. Something that 30 or 40 years prior would have never happen. Not from Gentiles and especially never from the Jews. Paul, by God, eradicated Racism. And a true Christian can never be a racist!