

In-House Wednesday Night Bible Study, 6:00 PM

“PLEASE ONE ANOTHER AS CHRIST” ROMANS CHAPTER 15

July 1, 2026

The Role of Ethnic Distinctives in Church Since all humans are culture-bound, any experience of Christ will be filtered through one's culture/ethnicity and one's faith with be intertwined with pieces of one's culture. Americans will find their culture filtering Christ to them; Africans, Asians, Europeans will find the same. Each person's culture is a filter. The issue is: is our ethnicity good or bad in Christ? Every culture has some things that, when evaluated from the vantage point of Christ, are in continuity with him. Likewise, every culture will possess some things that are in discontinuity with the Lord Jesus. In addition, every culture will contain some things that are indifferent. A renewed mind (Rom 12:2) will be able to discern which is which. That which is in continuity with Christ may stay; that which is in discontinuity will have to go; and those things that are indifferent may stay or go. In Christian communities these discernments will have to be made and implemented. In these communities, love will lead the way in dealing with matters of indifference.

Through David, the Lord proclaimed, "Behold, how good and how pleasant it is for brothers to dwell together in unity!" (Ps. 133:1). Speaking specifically of His chosen people Israel, He prophesied through Jeremiah that one day, "They shall be My people, and I will be their God; and I will give them one heart and one way, that they may fear Me always, for their own good, and for the good of their children after them" (Jer. 32:38-39). In one of Ezekiel's visions, the Lord instructed the prophet, "Son of man, take for yourself one stick and write on it, 'For Judah and for the sons of Israel, his companions'; then take another stick and write on it, 'For Joseph, the stick of Ephraim and all the house of Israel, his companions.' Then join them for yourself one to another into one stick, that they may become one in your hand,... and they will be one in My hand" (Ezek. 37:16-17, 19; cf. Hos. 1:11).

Speaking of the whole world, Jew and Gentile alike, God predicted that in the end times, "I will give to the peoples purified lips, that all of them may call on the name of the Lord, to serve Him shoulder to shoulder" (Zeph. 3:9), that is, side by side, as brothers. "The Lord will be king over all the earth; in that day the Lord will be the only one, and His name the only one" (Zech. 14:9).

The unity of believers is also the concern of God the Son. Speaking on one occasion before a largely Jewish audience, Jesus said, "I have other sheep [Gentiles], which are not of this fold [Israel]; I must bring them also, and they shall hear My voice; and they shall become one flock with one shepherd" (John 10:16). In other words, God's eternal plan is that all who believe in Him will become outwardly what they already are inwardly—unified in Him through faith in His Son. "When all things are subjected to Him [Christ]," Paul says, "then the Son Himself also will be subjected to the One who

subjected all things to Him, that God may be all in all" (1 Cor. 15:28). Ultimately, everyone who belongs to the Lord will be united in a great and glorious fellowship with Him and with each other.

Chapter 15 of Paul's letter to the church at Rome teaches many important points for spiritual living such as:

Understanding Strength and Weakness

Spiritual maturity involves recognizing our strengths and using them to support others, not to boast or dominate.

Selflessness in Community

As believers, we are called to prioritize the well-being of others, putting their needs and spiritual growth above our own preferences.

The Fulfillment of Scripture in Christ

The reference to Psalm 69:9 highlights the fulfillment of Old Testament prophecy in Jesus' life. This serves as a reminder of the reliability and continuity of God's Word.

The Purpose of Scripture

The Scriptures are not just historical documents but are divinely inspired for our instruction and growth in faith.

God as the Source of Endurance and Encouragement

Recognize that true endurance and encouragement come from God, enabling believers to persevere in faith and unity.

Unity in Worship

Romans 15:6 calls believers to glorify God with one voice. This unity in worship reflects the harmony that should exist within the body of Christ, transcending cultural and ethnic differences.

Christ as Our Model for Acceptance

Jesus' acceptance of us is the standard by which we should accept others. Reflect on how Christ's love and grace have been extended to you and seek to extend the same to others.

Christ's Servanthood

Jesus exemplified servanthood by fulfilling God's promises to the Jewish people. As believers, we are called to emulate His humility and service to others.

Praise as a Witness

Praising God among the nations serves as a powerful witness to His glory and mercy.

Believers are called to live lives of worship that draw others to Christ.

The Role of Scripture

Paul uses Scripture to validate his message, showing the importance of grounding our beliefs and actions in the Word of God.

Witness to the World

The unity and joy of believers serve as a powerful witness to the world. Christians are called to live in such a way that others are drawn to the love and truth of the Gospel.

Perseverance in Ministry

Like Paul, remain committed to your mission despite obstacles. Use delays as opportunities for growth and preparation.

The Importance of Serving Others

Paul's journey to Jerusalem underscores the Christian duty to serve and support fellow believers, especially those in need.

The Assurance of Spiritual Blessing

Paul's confidence in bringing the fullness of Christ's blessing is rooted in his faith and understanding of God's promises. Believers can have similar assurance in their spiritual endeavors.

The Power of Intercessory Prayer

Paul's request for prayer underscores the vital role of intercessory prayer in the life of a believer. It is a means of joining in the spiritual struggles of others, providing support and strength through divine intervention.

Facing Opposition with Faith

Paul's anticipation of opposition in Judea reminds us that the Christian journey often involves challenges. We are encouraged to face these with faith, knowing that God is our protector.