

The Book of Romans

The Gospel of God

Accept One Another

Romans 14:1-15:13

15 Now we who are strong ought to bear the weaknesses of those without strength and not please ourselves.

² Let each of us please his neighbor for his good, to his edification.

³ For even Christ did not please Himself; but as it is written, "THE REPROACHES OF THOSE WHO REPROACHED YOU FELL UPON ME."

⁴ For whatever was written in earlier times was written for our instruction, so that through perseverance and the encouragement of the Scriptures we might have hope.

⁵ Now may the God who gives perseverance and encouragement grant you to be of the same mind with one another according to Christ Jesus,

⁶ so that with one accord you may with one voice glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ.

(Romans 15:1-6)

Are you a "people-pleaser"?

- *Negatively* – an inordinate desire for the approval and acceptance by others ("fear of man")

For am I now seeking the favor of men, or of God? Or am I striving to please men? If I were still trying to please men, I would not be a bond-servant of Christ. (Galatians 1:10)

Are you a "people-pleaser"?

- *Negatively* – an inordinate desire for the approval and acceptance by others ("fear of man")
- *Positively* – a self-denial for the good of others, which is an expression of biblical love

Pleasing Others, Not Ourselves

A. Obligation of the "Strong"

- 1) Bear the weakness of those "unable"
 - respect their conscience without criticism and seek to protect them from spiritual harm

Pleasing Others, Not Ourselves

A. Obligation of the "Strong"

- 1) Bear the weakness of those "unable"
- 2) Please your neighbor for his spiritual good
 - not mere "men-pleasing" but genuinely seeking the spiritual good and building up of others

Pleasing Others, Not Ourselves

➤ "Not please ourselves"

- expresses the radical mindset-shift of a Christian – from self-centered to others-centered
- the mindset exemplified by Jesus

Pleasing Others, Not Ourselves

B. Example of Christ ("*did not please Himself*")

➤ Paul's use of Psalm 69

- David typology – David, God's anointed, in his unjust sufferings is a type of the Christ
- Psalm 69 applies ultimately and more directly to Jesus in His sufferings

Pleasing Others, Not Ourselves

B. Example of Christ ("*did not please Himself*")

- all the enmity of people against God was directed at Christ; he was the innocent "victim"
- He identified Himself with the supreme interests of those He came to save, and thus bore this reproach
- the force of Christ's example is in the complete dissimilarity with our situation