

A Prayer for God-Glorifying Unity

Romans 15:5-6

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 of 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)

A Prayer-Wish

- Paul expresses to the church what he desires God to do for them
- Paul describes God as the source of endurance and encouragement
 - God gives these through the Scriptures
 - we need these in dealing with each other

A Prayer-Wish

1. Content: *"to have the same mind"*

- not simply to come to the same opinion, but share a common perspective and purpose ("mind-set")
- to remain united in our common devotion to the Lord Jesus and our desire to obey Him
- it involves not judging or despising each other, but seeking to please and prefer our neighbor

... ² make my joy complete by being of the same mind, maintaining the same love, united in spirit, being of the one mind.³ Do nothing from selfishness or empty conceit, but with humility of mind regard one another as more important than yourselves; ⁴ do not *merely* look out for your own personal interests, but also for the interests of others.

⁵ Have this mind in yourselves which was also in Christ Jesus, ⁶ who, although He existed in the form of God, did not regard equality with God a thing to be grasped, ⁷ but emptied Himself, taking the form of a bond-servant, *and* being made in the likeness of men. ⁸ Being found in appearance as a man, He humbled Himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross.

(Philippians 2:2-8)

A Prayer-Wish

2. Purpose: *to glorify God together*

- the ultimate aim of our unity is to display the worth and greatness of God as God
- unity is essential in order to pursue *together* our most basic purpose: to glorify God
- a distinct element of glorifying God is our united declaration of His worth

Is the chief end of your life to glorify God
together with the church?