

DISCIPLESHIP GROUPS

Our Mission: Reaching Out to Leaders Who Can Change the World.

Romans

A New Life

Lesson #19: Please Others, Not Yourself

INTRODUCTION

“You deserve the best.” “Look out for number one.” “Pamper yourself.” “I’m worth it.” Why do you think these slogans have become so popular in our culture?

OBSERVATION/INTERPRETATION

Read Romans 15: 1-13

Note: The “other” that we ultimately should be trying to please is God. At the same time, it is hard for us to comprehend that there is nothing we can say or do that will cause God to love us more. Our motive for pleasing God should be love, not approval or recognition.

1. Apart from that which in itself is sinful, we are divinely free to do as we please. If those freedoms are not meant to please ourselves, who (or what) is supposed to benefit from our freedom? **Phil 2:2-5; Rom 14:19**
2. How was Christ the supreme example of what Paul commands in verses 1-2? **Phil 2:6-8; Ps 69:9**
3. Paul urges us to stop being so self-centered. When is self-concern appropriate? When does it turn into selfishness?
4. Who are considered strong? Weak? Why? How are we to act?
5. What personal attitudes might help us to bear with the failings of the weak? **Heb 5:7; Phil 2:5**
6. Why are Bible studies and prayer essential for us to maintain Christ’s examples of endurance, encouragement and hope? **Ps 62:5; 119:116; 130:5**
7. If the purpose of Christian unity is not to please man, but the Lord, how do we do that? Vv. 5-6
8. If accepting new believers is a mark of godliness, what is the failure to do so? Vs. 7
9. In verses 9-12 Paul quotes from four different Old Testament passages (Ps 18:49; Deu 32:43; Ps 117:1; Isa 11:1 & 10). What words and phrases express the dominate mood of these verses? Why is this mood appropriate for all who hope in Jesus?
10. Keeping in mind the context of verses 1-12, how can we become those whose lives overflow with joy, peace and hope?

APPLICATION

Knowing what you now know, what opportunities exist to serve others, especially in the areas you normally overlook? How can this type of service become more of commonplace in your life?

In his call for believers to be of the same mind with one another according to Christ Jesus, the apostle is speaking of unity in regard to matters on which the Bible is silent or which are no longer valid. It is disagreement about nonessential issues that causes the conflict between strong and weak believers. Paul therefore continues to call on believers, despite their differing views, to be in loving, spiritual, and brotherly harmony with one another according to their common Savior and Lord, Christ Jesus. The fulfillment of this command is by God’s power.¹

The normal Christian life is to be characterized by hope, joy, and peace. As we grow in grace, God wants us to experience more and more of each of them—and if they’re lacking, something has gone wrong.²

¹ MacArthur, J. (1996). *Romans* (Ro 15:5). Chicago: Moody Press.

² Stanley, C. F. (2005). *The Charles F. Stanley life principles Bible: New King James Version* (Ro 15:13). Nashville, TN: Nelson Bibles.