

## Romans Lesson 19 Articles

**Rom 15:1–7 Am I Pleasing Myself or Others?** These verses fit best in chapter 14’s outline. The strong ought to bear the weaknesses of the immature Christians, and while doing this, seek to build them up in the faith. We should follow Christ’s example and seek to please others, not ourselves (Ps. 69:9). Does this OT verse apply to the NT Christian? Of course it does, for the OT was given for our learning, that we might receive patience (endurance), comfort, and hope from the promises of God. We ought to be like-minded, and we will be if all believers seek to help others grow in the Lord. Paul’s final conclusion in v. 7 is: receive one another, for Christ has received you. This will bring glory to God.

Local churches have the right to establish standards, but not beyond what the Word teaches. We must lovingly allow for differences among Christians and not use these differences as opportunities for division.<sup>1</sup>

Rom 15:4 contains a principle of great significance for the twentieth-century believer. Everything that was written in Scripture in days gone by was written for us. Not only did it serve the needs of its own day but it is still relevant in the modern world. Scripture is relevant because it speaks to our deepest needs. It is through the endurance taught in Scripture and the encouragement it brings that we are enabled to live in hope. Morris reminds us that “Paul is not exhorting believers to pull themselves together and manifest these qualities, but rejoicing in God who gives them” (vs. 5). The difficulties of today are bearable because God in his Word tells us of a better time yet to come. He mediates his comfort and encouragement by speaking through his Word to the hearts of receptive believers. To separate oneself from Scripture is to turn a deaf ear to the voice of a Heavenly Father anxious to console.<sup>2</sup>

**Rom 15:7–12** This paragraph brings to a close Paul’s major presentation. *It highlights the overall theme of the letter, “the inclusion of the Gentiles within the promises to his people.”* Both the weak and the strong are to accept one another. That is what it means to follow Christ. He accepted us; we are to accept one another. It should not be too difficult to extend the hand of friendship to one who is loved by the one we honor and worship (cf. 14:1, 3, 15). We might say, “Any friend of his is a friend of mine.” This spirit of brotherly kindness will bring praise to God, who makes it all possible in the first place.

Christ became a servant of the Jews to demonstrate the truthfulness of God (v. 8). He confirmed the promises made to the patriarchs by fulfilling them. Now the Gentiles can glorify God for the mercy he has shown to them. Of the many promises made by God to the children of Israel, none is more apropos in this context than Gen 22:18, “Through your offspring all nations on earth will be blessed” (cf. Acts 3:25). God’s great redemptive plan was that through his Son, born a Jew as to his human nature (cf. 1:3), he might reach out in reconciling love to those of every nation under the sun.<sup>3</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> Wiersbe, W. W. (1992). *Wiersbe’s expository outlines on the New Testament* (pp. 407–408). Wheaton, IL: Victor Books.

<sup>2</sup> <sup>3</sup>Mounce, R. H. (1995). *Romans* (Vol. 27, p. 260-261). Nashville: Broadman & Holman Publishers.