



# ROMANS 15:1-13

- Romans 15:1-3
- There are three ways to fulfill verse 1 and 2 (help those who are weaker than we are and help our neighbors for their good)
- First, we can do it out of sense of duty and obedience to God's word
- Second, we can do it in order to get God's blessings
- Third, we can do it out of love (practice 2<sup>nd</sup> greatest commandment)
- Which way is better or preferable?
- What if I don't have a lot of love or does the third way mean I should only help those whom I love?

- Romans 15:4-6
- What bible verses or story that teach us patience, comfort?
- How patience and comfort give us hope?
- Verse 5,6 talks about Christian unity. Why Christian unity is important?
- Christian unity helps others to grow spiritually and it's the best tool for evangelism.
- Please share in small groups what are the barriers to Christian unity and how we can overcome these barriers?

- Romans 15:7-9:
- Verse 8: Jesus became a servant. Please give examples from the bible how Jesus demonstrate servanthood?
- Why being a servant is important?
- Servanthood promotes spiritual growth. How?
- To be a servant, we need to demonstrate humility and fruits of the Holy Spirit as stated in Gal 5:22-23. so, when we practice servanthood, we will grow spiritually and bear spiritual fruits.

- Romans 15:10-13:
- Verse 13: God of hope will fill us with all joy and peace
- Joy and peace is critical because it gives us hope and it's the reason why we live (purpose for living).
- Joy means happy, lack of pain (wonderful, nice), and peace means no worry, lack of conflict (secure, stable)
- We can only have peace and joy when we have/possess what we have chosen to give us peace and joy. Peace and joy is not purely emotion/feeling, it's based on something that we choose and we convince ourselves that if we have these things, we will have peace and joy. Happiness is a choice.

- Everything that will give us peace and joy can be divided into two categories:
  - Materials: food, clothing, house, etc (anything that relates to objects)
  - Relationship: interaction with family, friends, people, physical well being.
- We cannot acquire the above by our own effort only (we need help) because:
  - we cannot produce things out of thin air.
  - We cannot control how others relate to us and our own physical well being.

- There are only two beings who can give us peace and joy: God and Satan.
- God: gives us peace and joy based relationship: relationship comes first, materials come second (Matt 6:33, 22:37-40)
  - God's purpose for giving us peace and joy so He can have relationship with us. Materials are for our use/enjoyment.
- Satan: gives us peace and joy based on materials: materials come first, relationship comes second ( 1 John 2:16, Luke 4:5,6).
  - Satan's purpose for giving us peace and joy is to control or dominate us (to make us his slaves). So, he entices us with materials so we can abandon God and fall under his control.

- We have two paths to get peace and joy:
- We can choose the things that God will give us and convince ourselves that these things will give us peace and joy and depend on God to give us these things. We will put relationship first and accept with joy whatever He gives us.
- We can choose the things that Satan will give us to get peace and joy and they are usually based on sinful/selfish desire. We will put materials first and submit to Satan and his ways in order to get what he gives us.

Happiness is a choice.

- Conclusion:
- We are commanded to help others, especially those who are weaker and for their good. Practice 2<sup>nd</sup> greatest commandments
- Patience, comfort give us hope
- Christian unity helps others to grow spiritually
- Servanthood promotes spiritual growth
- God will give us joy and peace when we put relationship first and depend on Him for our physical needs.