

UNITY and CONSCIENCE



Romans

15:1-7

Romans 15:1-7 NASB

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1. Now we who are strong ought to **bear** the weaknesses of those without strength, and not *just* **please** ourselves.
2. Each of us is to please his neighbor for his good, to *his* **edification**.
3. For even Christ did not **please** Himself, but as it is written: "*THE TAUNTS OF THOSE WHO TAUNT YOU HAVE FALLEN ON 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 purpose** *and* **one voice** you may glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ.
7. Therefore, **accept** one another, just as Christ also **accepted** us, for the glory of God.



Review

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- Some things in the Christian life are not inherently **sinful**.
- Some things that are permissible to some are not to others.
- We all have a **conscience** within our spirit that can convict, restrict, release, and suggest.
- The conscience is not the final authority.
- When the conscience does raise an alarm, it needs to be heeded.
- Love triumphs over liberty.

Team Worksheet



Essential

- Without this belief there is no Christianity



Non-Essential

- Important
- Belief which does not affect your salvation



Preferences

- Beliefs that are matter of conscience or personal choice

Rules for Team exercise

1. You must all agree on a choice
2. A choice must be made on each belief
3. One person will keep score
4. You may not ask questions of the teacher for clarification

Taxes and a still small voice

If something is wrong for me, does it necessarily mean it is wrong for everyone else?

What is Unity?

- The state of being joined or united, as a whole
- Harmony or agreement between people and groups
- The state or quality of being one, singleness
- The state or quality of being in agreement,
- Being of one mind

- Greek “henotes” - unanimity, agreement

**It takes all
kinds to
make a
church**

STRONG vs. WEAK



Call to the strong

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We who are strong ought to bear with the failings of the weak and not to please ourselves.

- Romans 15:1 -

What unity is not.

- True Unity is not necessarily organizational unity
- True Unity is not primarily an ethnic unity
- True Unity is not primarily a cultural unity
- True Unity is not outward conformity
- True Unity is not total agreement on every point of theology

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.

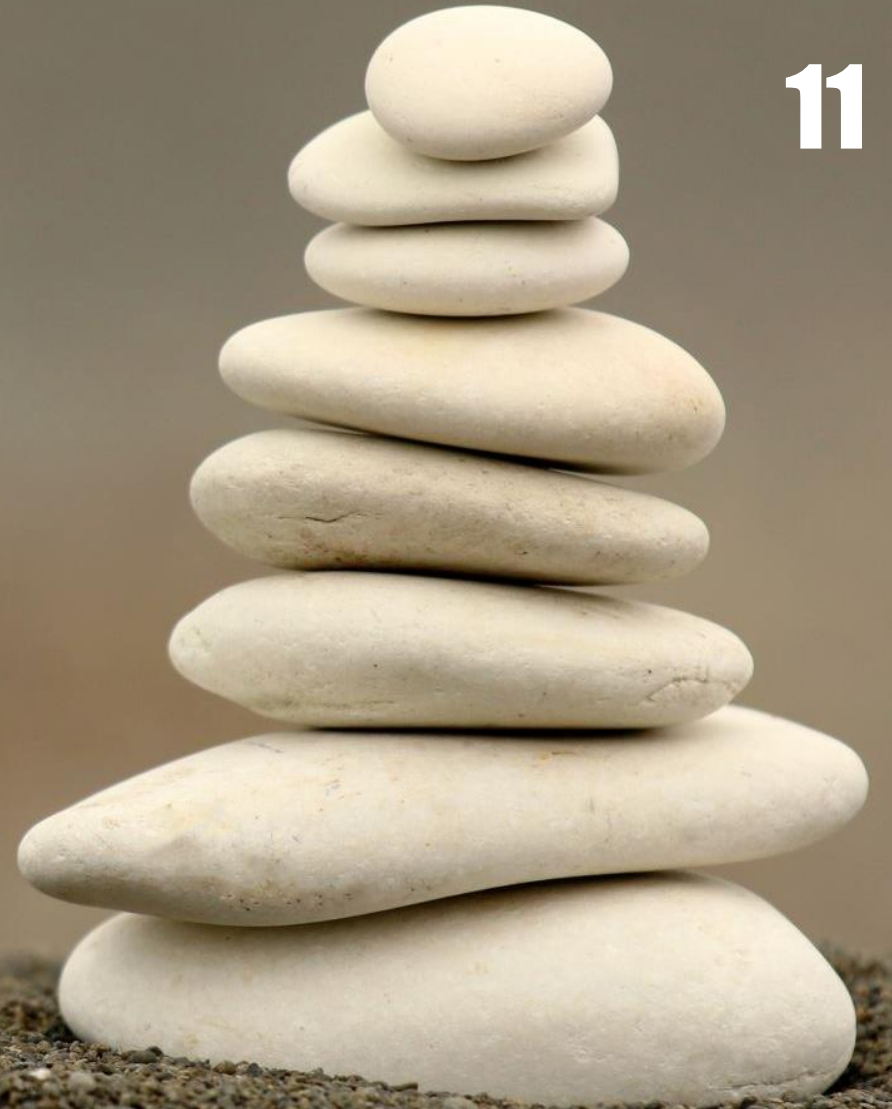
5. Now may the God who gives perseverance and encouragement grant you to be of the same mind with one another, according to Christ Jesus,

True unity comes from God, who gives perseverance and encouragement

- **Perseverance:** It is not a long marathon but many small sprints put together.
- **Encouragement:** We have a cloud of witnesses cheering us on
- **HOPE:** The race will be won.

Unity in Worship

- True Unity starts on the heart level but expresses itself outwardly in worship. V6
- God is truly glorified when we worship Him in Truth. v7
- Unity is a requirement for good Church health. V1-7



***True
Church
Unity
comes
when we
gather at
the cross of
Jesus***

