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Romans 15 Paraphrased



By Dan Maines

Romans 15 Paraphrased

Introduction

† Paul continues addressing unity, showing how the strong were to carry the weak as the old system was passing away.

† This was written to real believers living at the end of the age, learning to live together as one body in Christ.

† The focus is not on self, but on building others up in the finished work of Christ.

Romans 15:1

We who are strong must carry the weaknesses of those who are not strong, and not live just to please ourselves

† Strength here is understanding freedom from the Law (Galatians 5:1)

† The strong were to support the weak, not look down on them (Romans 14:1)

† This reflects Christ's selfless example (Philippians 2:4)

Romans 15:2

Each of us should seek to please our neighbor for their good, so they are built up

† The goal is edification, not self-advancement (1 Corinthians 10:23)

† Love focuses on strengthening others (Ephesians 4:29)

† This keeps unity in the body (Romans 14:19)

Romans 15:3

For even Christ did not please Himself, but as it is written, the insults of those who insulted You fell on Me

† Christ fulfilled what was written about Him (Psalm 69:9)

† He bore reproach for God's purpose (John 6:38)

† Believers follow that same pattern (1 Peter 2:21)

Romans 15:4

Whatever was written before was written for our instruction, so that through endurance and encouragement from the Scriptures we might have hope

† The Scriptures were still instructing believers (2 Timothy 3:16)

† Hope comes from seeing God's faithfulness (Hebrews 6:19)

† They needed endurance in that generation (Luke 21:19)

Romans 15:5

Now may the God who gives endurance and encouragement grant you to live in harmony with one another according to Christ Jesus

† Unity comes from God, not human effort (Philippians 2:2)

† Harmony reflects one mind in Christ (1 Corinthians 1:10)

† This was critical during covenant transition (Ephesians 2:14)

Romans 15:6

So that with one mind and one voice you may glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ

† Unity results in true worship (John 17:21)

† Division weakens the testimony (Acts 4:32)

† God is glorified in oneness (Ephesians 4:6)

Romans 15:7

Therefore accept one another, just as Christ also accepted you, to the glory of God

† Acceptance is based on Christ's work (Romans 14:3)

† This removes division between Jew and Gentile (Colossians 3:11)

† Unity displays God's glory (John 13:35)

Romans 15:8

For I say that Christ became a servant to the circumcision on behalf of the truth of God, to confirm the promises given to the fathers

† Christ fulfilled promises to Israel (Matthew 15:24)

† He confirmed God's faithfulness (Luke 1:72)

† This ties Old and New together (Hebrews 8:6)

Romans 15:9

And for the Gentiles to glorify God for His mercy, as it is written, I will give praise to You among the Gentiles, and sing to Your name

† Gentile inclusion was always planned (Psalm 18:49)

† Mercy extended to all nations (Isaiah 49:6)

† This was fulfillment, not future (Acts 13:47)

Romans 15:10

Again he says, Rejoice, you Gentiles, with His people

† Jews and Gentiles rejoicing together shows unity

(Deuteronomy 32:43)

† The dividing wall was removed (Ephesians 2:14)

† This was happening in their time (Luke 2:32)

Romans 15:11

And again, Praise the Lord all you Gentiles, and let all the peoples praise Him

† All nations were called to worship (Psalm 117:1)

† The gospel reached beyond Israel (Mark 13:10)

† This shows global inclusion (Revelation 7:9)

Romans 15:12

Again Isaiah says, There shall come the root of Jesse, and He who arises to rule over the Gentiles, in Him the Gentiles will hope

† Christ is the promised King (Isaiah 11:10)

† Gentiles placed hope in Him (Romans 10:12)

† His kingdom is spiritual (John 18:36)

Romans 15:13

Now may the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that you will abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit

† Joy and peace come through faith (Philippians 4:7)

† The Spirit produces hope (Galatians 5:5)

† This sustained them in tribulation (Luke 21:28)

Romans 15:14

And concerning you, my brothers, I am convinced that you are full of goodness, filled with knowledge and able to instruct one another

† Believers were growing in maturity (Hebrews 5:12)

† They could teach each other (Colossians 3:16)

† The body builds itself up (Ephesians 4:13)

Romans 15:15

But I have written boldly to you on some points to remind you

again, because of the grace given me by God
† Paul's authority came from grace (Romans 1:5)
† Reminders are necessary (2 Peter 1:12)
† Boldness comes from calling (Ephesians 3:7)

Romans 15:16

To be a minister of Christ Jesus to the Gentiles, serving as a priest of the gospel of God, so that the offering of the Gentiles may be acceptable, sanctified by the Holy Spirit

† Paul served as a priest in gospel ministry (Philippians 2:17)
† Gentiles were now acceptable to God (1 Peter 2:5)
† The Spirit sanctified them apart from the Law (Galatians 3:2)

Romans 15:17

Therefore in Christ Jesus I have reason to boast in things pertaining to God

† Boasting is only in God (Jeremiah 9:24)
† Paul didn't boast in himself (2 Corinthians 10:17)
† This keeps focus on God's work (1 Corinthians 1:31)

Romans 15:18

For I will not speak of anything except what Christ has accomplished through me, resulting in the obedience of the Gentiles by word and deed

† Christ worked through Paul (Galatians 2:20)
† Obedience came through teaching and action (1 Thessalonians 1:5)
† The gospel was effective among Gentiles (Acts 20:24)

Romans 15:19

In the power of signs and wonders, in the power of the Spirit, so that from Jerusalem and around to Illyricum I have fully preached the gospel of Christ

† Signs confirmed the message (Hebrews 2:4)
† The gospel spread widely (Colossians 1:23)
† This fulfilled Christ's words (Matthew 24:14)

Romans 15:20

And so I aspired to preach the gospel where Christ was not already named, so I would not build on another man's foundation

† Paul focused on new areas (2 Corinthians 10:15)

† This expanded the gospel quickly (Acts 13:47)

† The mission was urgent (Luke 21:22)

Romans 15:21

But as it is written, Those who had no news of Him will see, and those who have not heard will understand

† This fulfills Isaiah (Isaiah 52:15)

† The message reached new people (Acts 13:48)

† God's plan included all nations (Genesis 12:3)

Romans 15:22

For this reason I have often been prevented from coming to you

† His mission work delayed travel (Romans 1:13)

† Priority was preaching where needed (Acts 16:6)

† The gospel mission came first (Mark 1:38)

Romans 15:23

But now, with no further place for me in these regions, and having had a longing for many years to come to you

† His work in those areas was complete (Acts 19:10)

† He desired fellowship with them (Romans 1:11)

† This shows the spread of the gospel was accomplished

Romans 15:24

Whenever I go to Spain, I hope to see you while passing through, and to be helped on my way there by you, after I have enjoyed your company for a while

† Spain represented further expansion (Isaiah 66:19)

† Fellowship was important to Paul (Philemon 1:22)

† The mission continued outward

Romans 15:25

But now I am going to Jerusalem serving the saints

† He carried aid to believers (Acts 24:17)

† This shows unity between churches (2 Corinthians 8:4)

† Service was part of ministry

Romans 15:26

For Macedonia and Achaia have been pleased to make a contribution for the poor among the saints in Jerusalem

† Gentiles supported Jewish believers (2 Corinthians 9:12)

† This showed unity in Christ (Ephesians 2:15)

† Giving was voluntary and joyful

Romans 15:27

Yes, they were pleased to do so, and they are indebted to them, for if the Gentiles have shared in their spiritual things, they owe it to minister to them in material things

† Spiritual blessing came through Israel (John 4:22)

† Material support was a response (1 Corinthians 9:11)

† This shows mutual care in the body

Romans 15:28

Therefore, when I have completed this and delivered this fruit to them, I will go on by way of you to Spain

† Paul followed through on commitments (Acts 20:16)

† He viewed giving as fruit (Philippians 4:17)

† His mission remained forward-focused

Romans 15:29

I know that when I come to you, I will come in the fullness of the blessing of Christ

† Paul expected God's blessing (Romans 1:12)

† Christ's fullness was already present (Colossians 2:10)

† Fellowship would strengthen them

Romans 15:30

Now I urge you, brothers, by our Lord Jesus Christ and by the

love of the Spirit, to strive together with me in your prayers to God for me

† Prayer was essential in ministry (Ephesians 6:18)

† The Spirit unites believers in love (Galatians 5:22)

† They were to labor together in prayer

Romans 15:31

That I may be rescued from those who are disobedient in Judea, and that my service for Jerusalem may prove acceptable to the saints

† There was real opposition (Acts 21:27)

† Paul depended on God for deliverance (2 Thessalonians 3:2)

† Acceptance of his offering mattered

Romans 15:32

So that I may come to you in joy by the will of God and find refreshing rest in your company

† Fellowship brings refreshment (2 Timothy 1:16)

† Joy comes from shared faith (Philippians 1:25)

† God's will directs all plans

Romans 15:33

Now the God of peace be with you all. Amen

† God is the source of peace (Philippians 4:9)

† This closes with blessing over the body

† Peace was needed during that time of transition

Historical References

† Josephus records the tensions and unity among Jewish groups before AD 70, Antiquities of the Jews, Book 20

† Eusebius notes the spread of the gospel across regions before Jerusalem's fall, Ecclesiastical History 3.5

† Clement of Alexandria speaks of apostolic teaching reaching the nations, Stromata

How It Applies To Us Today

† We are still called to build each other up, not tear each other

down

† Unity in Christ matters more than personal preferences

† We live in the finished work, not waiting for fulfillment

† We should walk in love, patience, and maturity with one another

† The mission now is living out what has already been completed

Q & A Appendix

Q Why did Paul tell the strong to bear the weak?

A Because unity in the body was essential, Romans 14:1

Q Was the gospel already reaching the world?

A Yes, it had spread widely in their time, Colossians 1:23

Q Why were Gentiles giving to Jerusalem?

A Because they shared in spiritual blessings, 1 Corinthians 9:11

Q Were signs and wonders active then?

A Yes, they confirmed the message, Hebrews 2:4

Q What was Paul's main mission?

A To preach Christ where He wasn't known, Isaiah 52:15

† This is the fulfilled perspective we proclaim at Fulfilled Prophecies †

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Source Index

† Romans 15

† Josephus, Antiquities of the Jews

† Eusebius, Ecclesiastical History

† Clement of Alexandria, Stromata

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