

***“One Mind & One Mouth”***  
***Romans 15:1-7***

**Introduction:**

1. This Morning:
  - As We Continue Through Paul’s Letter To The Roman Church:
    - We Begin A New Chapter:
      - Chapter 15 - So - Please Open Your Bibles There:
        - With Me - Romans 15!
    - Where - Even Though:
      - We Have A New Chapter:
        - We Are Still Covering:
          - The Same Theme:
            - As The Previous Chapter!
2. And That Theme Is:
  - How We Are To Relate To Each Other:
    - As Christians - When:
      - There Are Different Levels & Strengths:
        - Of Spiritual Faith!
    - And Especially:
      - When It Comes To Issues:
        - That Are Not Clearly Addressed In Scripture! And:
          - With Matters That Are Non-Moral & Non-Essential:
            - In And Of Themselves!
  - In Chapter 14:
    - The Apostle Paul Talked About Issues Like:
      - Eating & Drinking:
        - Along With:
          - Celebrating Certain Days:
            - Over Others!
3. Well - After Dealing With:
  - Those Matters In Particular:
    - In Chapter 15 - We Come To Some:
      - Bigger & Broader Principles:
        - Which Ought To Govern:
          - Our Connections:
            - With Each Other - And:
          - Our Choices:
            - As Part Of The Body Of Christ!
  - And So - Let’s Read Together:
    - 15:1-7 - “We then that are strong ought to bear the infirmities of the weak, and not to please ourselves. / Let every one of us please his neighbour for his good to edification. / For even Christ pleased not himself; but, as it is written, The reproaches of them that reproached thee fell on me. / For whatsoever things were written aforetime were written for our learning, that we through patience and comfort of the scriptures might have hope. / Now the God of patience and consolation grant you to be likeminded one toward another according to Christ Jesus: / That ye may with one mind and one mouth glorify God, even the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ. / Wherefore receive ye one another, as Christ also received us to the glory of God!”
4. I Think The Great Theme:
  - Of These Verses - And Really:
    - The Broad Principle:
      - That We Need To Keep In Mind:
        - Is What We Find There:
          - In 15:6!
  - And That Is - As Christians:
    - Our Goal Is To Be To:
      - “With One Mind & One Mouth Glorify God!”
5. What A Beautiful Way:
  - To Describe:

- The Unity Of The Church!
  - The Unity Of:
    - Our Purpose! And:
  - The Unity Of:
    - Our Praise!
- “With One Mind And One Mouth!”
- 6. And - Through These Verses:
  - I Want Us To Consider Together:
    - Three Ways In Which:
      - We Can Foster & Promote:
        - Greater Unity:
          - In Our Connections:
            - With Each Other - And:
          - In Our Choices:
            - As Part Of The Body Of Christ!
  - This Is What Paul Tells Us To Do As Well:
    - In Ephesians 4:3:
      - “Endeavouring to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace!”
- 7. So - As Christians & As A Church:
  - We Need To Have - More & More:
    - “One Mind And One Mouth” - In Order To:
      - Please The Lord!
        - And In These Verses:
          - We Find 3 Ways:
            - As To How!

\* The First Way We Can Please The Lord - With “One Mind & One Mouth” Is:

**1. To Promote The Good Of Others!**

- Which Is What The Apostle Paul Focuses On First:
  - In 15:1-3 - Where He Again Writes:
    - “We then that are strong ought to bear the infirmities of the weak, and not to please ourselves. / Let every one of us please his neighbour for his good to edification. / For even Christ pleased not himself; but, as it is written, The reproaches of them that reproached thee fell on me!”
  - When The People Of God:
    - Unite - With One Mind & One Mouth:
      - To Promote The Good Of Others:
        - It Pleases God!
      - And Since This Is To Be One Of Our Goals:
        - There Are Some Things In These Verses:
          - We Need To Seriously Consider:
            - To Accomplish This!
              - We Need To:
  - Consider Our Exhortation!
    - Which Is What We Find In Verse 1:
      - Which Is Primarily Addressed To:
        - Those Who Are Stronger In Their Faith:
          - Who Have Been Referred To Already:
            - In Chapter 14!
          - And So - Their Exhortation Is This:
            - “We Then That Are Strong Ought To Bear The Infirmities Of The Weak!”
    - The Strength Of Those Who May Be:
      - Stronger In Faith:
        - Refers To Their Freedom & Liberty:
          - To Properly Use & Enjoy All The Things God Created! Whereas:
    - The Weakness Of Those Who May Be:
      - Weaker In Faith:
        - Refers To Their Scruples & Sensitivities:
          - In Those Same Things:

- In Their Consciences!
- Now - Even Though Paul:
  - Includes Himself As One Who Is Stronger In Faith:
    - He Sets Forth:
- A Greater Responsibility:
  - For The “Strong” To “Bear The Infirmities Of The Weak!”
    - This Is Not Just:
      - A Recommendation!
      - It’s A Responsibility!
  - And That Responsibility Is:
    - Not Just To:
      - “Bear With” The Weakness:
        - Of Others - As In Just Putting Up With & Tolerating Them!
    - Instead - Their Responsibility Is To:
      - “Bear Up” The Weakness!
        - And To Help Carry The Load Of Those Who Are Weaker In Faith!
      - Especially - By Not Adding:
        - To Their Grief!
  - This Is What Paul Also Referred To:
    - In Galatians 6:2 - Though It Applies To All Believers - “Bear ye one another’s burdens, and so fulfil the law of Christ!”
      - And Along With This Great Responsibility - Paul Adds:
- A Greater Reason:
  - To Do So - 15:1b - “And Not To Please Ourselves!”
    - The Christian Life Was Never Meant To Be Primarily About:
      - “Pleasing Yourself” At The Expense Of Others!
    - Or About:
      - Using & Enjoying Your Liberties:
        - At The Expense Of Our Christian Treatment & Testimony!
- And So - Our Exhortation Is This:
  - Do Not Live Your Christian Life:
    - To Just Please Yourself!
      - This Is The Very Opposite Of What Christ Intended When He Said In Luke 9:23 - “If Any Man Will Come After Me, Let Him Deny Himself, And Take Up His Cross Daily, And Follow Me!”
- But - When The People Of God:
  - Unite - With One Mind & One Mouth:
    - To Promote The Good Of Others:
      - It Pleases God!
      - We Then Also Need To:
- Consider Our Edification!
  - Though The Exhortation In Verse 1 Was Primarily Directed To Those Who Were Stronger In Faith:
    - Verse 2 Applies To All Who Are In The Faith:
      - Of Jesus Christ!
    - And So - To All Of Us:
      - Whether Strong Or Weak!
      - Whether Young Or Old!
      - Paul Writes:
        - “Let every one of us please his neighbour for his good to edification!”
  - So - Instead Of Focusing Inwardly:
    - To Please Ourselves:
      - Where Is Our Focus To Be?
        - Outwardly - To Please Others!
    - Here - Paul Uses The Word “Neighbor” To:
      - Describe Even Our Brothers & Sisters In Christ!
        - And He Does This - Probably Because He Has The Commandment Of Love In Mind:
          - To “Love Thy Neighbor As Thyself!”

- **IE:** It's A Sad Reality That People Often Treat Strangers & Neighbors Better Than Their Own Family! And All Too Often This Reality Carries Over Into The Church! So - If You Won't Love & Try To Please Fellow Christians As Family, Will You Do So As Neighbors?
  - Even As Paul Writes In Galatians 6:10 - "As we have therefore opportunity, let us do good unto all men, especially unto them who are of the household of faith!"
- So This Needs To Be Our Daily Purpose:
  - "Especially Unto Them Who Are Of The Household Of Faith!"
    - How Can I Please Them?
      - This Is Not Referring To:
        - Sensual Pleasure, But Spiritual Pleasure!
      - To Simply Ask Yourself:
        - What Can I Do To Bless Someone Today?
    - **IE:** A Few Months Ago, The Lord Called One Of Our Dear Friends & Sisters Home - Dottie - And In A Recent Post On Social Media - A Friend Of Hers Described Dottie's Daily Prayer & Mission, As She Would Often Say: "I Asked The Lord To Show Me Who I Could Bless Today!"
      - What A Testimony! What An Example!
      - But What Does That Blessing Include For Our Brothers & Sisters In Christ?
    - Their True Good!
      - Which Is God's Good For Them!
      - Which Will Also Lead To:
    - Their True Growth!
      - Which Is Their Edification!
        - Being Built Up On & In:
          - Our Most Holy Faith!
      - And - Remember How That's Done?
        - Back In 14:19 - "Let us therefore follow after the things which make for peace, and things wherewith one may edify another!"
    - And So - This Is Edification:
      - To Live Our Christian Lives:
        - To Please Our Neighbors:
          - For Their Spiritual Good & Growth!
      - And When The People Of God:
        - Unite - With One Mind & One Mouth:
          - To Promote The Good Of Others In This Way:
            - It Pleases God!
        - Isn't This What Jesus Our Savior Did Himself?
          - Isn't He The One Who:
            - "Himself Took Our Infirmities, And Bare Our Sicknesses?" (Matthew 8:17)
          - Well - This Leads Us To:
      - Consider Our Example:
        - In 15:3 - "For even Christ pleased not himself; but, as it is written, The reproaches of them that reproached thee fell on me!"
          - You See - We Are Not Left:
            - To Attempt Pleasing The Lord - And:
              - Promoting The Good Of Others:
                - On Our Own!
            - We Have Been Given:
              - The Greatest Example Of This:
                - In The Person Of Jesus Christ!
                  - "Even Christ" Paul Says!
          - Jesus Was The Strongest Of All!
            - In His Faith & Hope & Love!
              - Yet - The Purpose Of His Coming To Us:
                - And His Continuing With Us:
                  - Was Not "To Please" Or To Provide For "Himself!"
              - Even In Matthew 8:20 - Jesus Said:
                - "The foxes have holes, and the birds of the air have nests; but the Son of man hath not where to lay his head!"

- Jesus Did Not Come To:
  - Please Himself! Instead:
- He Came To Deny Himself:
  - So That He Could Live & Sacrifice His Life:
    - To Please His Own Heavenly Father!
    - Which He Did!
      - In John 8:29 - Jesus Said - “And he that sent me is with me: the Father hath not left me alone; for I do always those things that please him!”
- But - The Cost To Please Him:
  - Was Heavy Indeed!
    - Here - Paul Quotes From Psalm 69:9:
      - And Puts The Words In Christ’s Own Mouth:
        - “The reproaches of them that reproached thee fell on me!”
- In Other Words:
  - Everything Jesus Went Through:
    - In His Life & Death:
      - Was To Follow The Path Laid Down For Him By His Father:
        - To Drink That Cup:
          - To Please Him!
- And So - As Our Greatest Example:
  - In & Through All Of The Ridicule!
  - In & Through All Of The Anguish!
  - He Pleased His Father:
    - So That He Might Save All:
      - Who Would Come To Him:
        - By Faith! Whether That Faith Was Weak Or Strong!
- And We Are To Follow His Example!
  - Because When The People OF God:
    - Unite - With One Mind & One Mouth:
      - To Promote What’s Good & What’s Best:
        - For Others:
          - Even God’s Good & God’s Best!
            - It Pleases The Lord!
- And This Is The First Way:
  - We Can Please The Lord Together As A Church!
    - With “One Mind & One Mouth”:
      - Promote The Good Of Others!
        - The Second Way Is:

**2. *To Promote The Growth Of The Church!***

- Which Is What We Find In The Transition Of:
  - 15:4 - Where Again Paul Writes:
    - “For whatsoever things were written aforetime were written for our learning, that we through patience and comfort of the scriptures might have hope!”
  - Here We Are Given:
    - A Great Principle About:
      - The Scriptures & God’s Word As A Whole!
    - Yet - It Functions As A Bridge:
      - Between Pleasing The Lord:
        - In 15:1-3 - And:
      - Praising The Lord:
        - In 15:5-7!
  - And Paul Brings This Principle To Us:
    - Because The Scripture:
      - Is Our Standard:
        - Of What’s Right & What’s True!
  - And So - With This Verse:
    - Paul Tells Us The Kind Of Pursuit:

- That Pleases The Lord:
  - Within The Church!
- Not Trivial & Nonessential Matters:
  - But The Matters Revealed To Us:
    - In The Word Of God!
- So - We Need To:
  - With “One Mind And One Mouth” Pursue After:
    - The Lord Through His Word:
      - Because This Too Is What Pleases Him!
  - And We Need To Promote The Growth Of The Church:
- Through Scriptural Education!
  - This Is One Of The Great Reasons:
    - For God’s Revelation To Us:
      - In His Word - 15:4a - “For whatsoever things were written aforetime were written for our learning!”
  - Isn’t This What We Also Find:
    - In 2 Timothy 3:16 - “All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness: / That the man of God may be perfect, thoroughly furnished unto all good works!”
  - When The Spiritual Education:
    - That Comes From God’s Word:
      - Is The Primary Focus Of Our Church:
        - It Puts All Other Trivial Matters:
          - In Their Place!
  - A Unified Church - “With One Mind & One Heart”:
    - Focused On The Education:
      - Through The Scriptures:
        - Pleases The Lord!
    - We Also Need To Promote The Growth Of The Church:
- Through Scriptural Expectation!
  - In Verse 4 - One Of The Main Reasons For God’s Revelation Is:
    - “That We . . . Might Have Hope!”
      - The Scriptures Are Full Of Hope!
        - Even In The Midst Of Hopelessness!
  - And This Is True From The Very Beginning!
    - When The Gloom & Bleakness Of Sin:
      - Came Into This World:
        - Through The Sin Of Adam & Eve:
    - On That Same Day:
      - The Light Of The Gospel:
        - Shined Upon Them - When God Said To The Serpent:
          - That There Was Going To Come A Special Seed From That Woman Who Would “Bruise [Its] Head!” (Genesis 3:15)
    - And That Light:
      - Still Shines - More & More Brightly:
        - Through The Pages Of Scripture:
          - To Give Hope To Sinners Like Us!
  - And This Hope & Expectation Is Necessary:
    - Because Our Own Tendency:
      - Is Hopelessness & Despair!
        - We Can See & Sense This Every Day!
          - In Our News!
            - Politics / Crime!
          - In Our Homes!
            - Broken!
          - In Our Hearts!
    - But - There Is Hope Given To Our Hopeless:
      - On The Pages Of This Book:

- Because They All Point Us To:
  - The Person Of Hope - "Our Lord Jesus Christ, Which Is Our Hope!"  
(1 Timothy 1:1)
- And - A Unified Church - "With One Mind & One Heart":
  - Focused On This Expectation:
    - From The Scriptures:
      - Jesus Christ Our Hope!
      - This Church Pleases The Lord!
    - We Also Need To Promote The Growth Of The Church:
- Through Scriptural Endurance & Encouragement!
  - 15:4 - "Through Patience And Comfort Of The Scriptures!"
    - This Is The Fuel For The Fire Of Our Hope!
      - Patient Endurance:
        - From The Lord - And:
      - Providential Encouragement:
        - Through His Word!
  - In James 5:11 - James Wrote:
    - "Ye Have Heard Of The Patience Of Job!"
      - Well - He's Not The Only Character In The Bible:
        - Noted For His Patience & Endurance!
    - You Can Read Of The Patience:
      - Of Other Saints - Like:
        - Joseph & David & Others:
          - To Stir You Up & Spur You On!
  - But - I Think Mostly:
    - Paul Has In Mind:
      - The Patience & Endurance:
        - Of Our Lord Jesus Christ!
    - Even His Endurance:
      - Through His Life As:
        - "The Man Of Sorrows" Was:
          - "Written Aforetime!"
    - Even Hundreds Of Years:
      - "Aforetime!"
        - Isaiah 53 Tells Us Much:
          - About His Patience!
  - And What Encouragement:
    - All Of This Brings To Us:
      - Who Believe In Him & His Life / Death:
        - As Our Sacrifice & Savior!
    - Hebrews 12:3 - "For consider him that endured such contradiction of sinners against himself, lest ye be wearied and faint in your minds!"
      - And Yet - We Find Even More Comfort & Encouragement:
        - In The Word Of God!
    - Comfort In The Revelation Of:
      - God's Presence:
        - With His People - With Us!
      - God's Power:
        - For His People - For Us!
      - God's Promises:
        - To His People - To Us!
  - And Now - When We Unite - With One Mind & One Mouth:
    - And Are Focused On:
      - Promoting The Growth Of The Church:
        - Through Endurance & Encouragement:
          - This Is What Pleases The Lord!
  - So - As Paul Wrote In:
    - 2 Thessalonians 2:16-17 - "Now our Lord Jesus Christ himself, and God, even our Father, which

hath loved us, and hath given us everlasting consolation and good hope through grace, / Comfort your hearts, and stablish you in every good word and work!”

- So - This Is How:
  - We Can Please The Lord Together As A Church!
    - With “One Mind & One Mouth”
    - Promote The Good Of Others!
    - Promote The Growth Of The Church!
    - And Then Third:

### 3. ***Promote The Glory Of God!***

- Which Is What We Find In:
  - 15:5-7 - Where Paul Writes:
    - “Now the God of patience and consolation grant you to be likeminded one toward another according to Christ Jesus: / That ye may with one mind [and] one mouth glorify God, even the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ. / Wherefore receive ye one another, as Christ also received us to the glory of God!”
  - In 15:5-6 - We Have Paul:
    - Recording For Us:
      - His Own Prayer To The Lord:
        - For A United Church:
          - Bring Glory To The Lord! How?
    - “With One Mind And One Mouth!”
      - I Like How Everett Harrison Defines & Describes This “One Mind!”
        - “This Does Not Mean That Believers Are Intended To See Eye-To-Eye On Everything, But That The More Christ Fills The Spiritual Vision, The Greater Will Be The Cohesiveness Of The Church!”
    - The One Mind We Need:
      - Is A Spiritual Vision:
        - Of Christ! And:
    - The One Mouth We Need:
      - Is A Scriptural Expression:
        - Of Praise!
    - And When This Happens:
      - In Any Church:
        - That Church:
          - Pleases The Lord!
    - And So - Paul Prays To This End!
      - Because - To Get This Kind Of Church:
        - There Needs To Be:
- A Reliance:
  - On God!
    - After All - He Is The:
      - “God Of Patience & Consolation!”
    - He Is The:
      - “God Of Endurance & Encouragement!”
  - The One Who Is The Author:
    - Of The Scriptures:
      - Is The Author & Provider:
        - Of These Gifts!
  - So - When We Lack:
    - Any Of These Things:
      - We Can & We Must:
        - Turn To The Lord In Prayer!
    - Is There:
      - A Lack Of Unity:
        - Within The Church?
          - Let Us Pray!
    - Is There:

- A Lack Of Hope:
  - Within The Church?
  - Let Us Pray!
- Is There:
  - A Lack Of Patience & Encouragement:
    - Within The Church?
    - Let Us Pray!
- Let Us Pray!
  - Because We Have A God:
    - Who Hears & Answers Prayer!
  - And The Church That:
    - Relies Upon The Lord:
      - “With One Mind & One Mouth!”
      - That Church Will Please The Lord!
  - And That Is Why There Needs To Be:
- A Request:
  - For Like-Mindedness!
    - With A “Common Perspective & Purpose!” (Doug Moo)
      - Ultimately To 15:6 - “Glorify God, Even The Father Of Our Lord Jesus Christ!”
    - And - How Do We Get To Have:
      - This “One Mind & Mouth?”
    - Through What We Just Found:
      - In 15:4! Through:
        - The Scriptures!
  - When The United Focus Of The Church:
    - Is The:
      - Education / Expectation / Endurance / Encouragement:
        - Of The Scriptures:
          - It Becomes The Basis Of Our Agreement & Mind!
    - And The Church That:
      - Requests This Kind Of Unity:
        - Unity Grounded In The Truth:
          - With “One Mind And One Mouth!”
          - That Church Will Please The Lord!
    - But Then - There Also Needs To Be:
  - A Reception!
    - In 15:7 - After His Prayer - Paul Calls On All Of Us To:
      - “Wherefore receive ye one another, as Christ also received us to the glory of God!”
    - We Need To:
      - “Receive One Another!”
        - Even As Christ Receives:
          - All Who Come To Him:
            - By Faith!
        - As Jesus Himself Said:
          - In John 6:37 - “All that the Father giveth me shall come to me; and him that cometh to me I will in no wise cast out!”
    - And - The Church That Unites Around:
      - Promoting The Glory Of God:
        - In These Ways:
          - “With One Mind And One Mouth”:
          - Is The Church That:
            - Pleases The Lord!

**Conclusion:**

1. Does This Describe:
  - Our Church?
  - Does This Describe:
    - Your Desire?

- It All Begins:
  - With Your Mind & Your Mouth!
- 2. It All Begins:
  - When You Personally Promote:
    - The Good Of Others!
    - The Growth Of The Church! And:
    - The Glory Of God!
- 3. But - When We All Unite To Do This:
  - The Result Will Be:
    - A Church That Pleases The Lord!

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