

LII. Strong and Weak Believers in Unity - Pt 3 - Please One Another as Christ Did

A. God's Design for Unity

1. OT

a. David's Teaching - Ps 133:1

b. The Prophet's Teachings - Jer 32:38-39; Ez 36:16-17; Hos 1:11; Zeph 3:9; 14:9

2. NT

a. The Gospels - Jo 10:16

b. The Epistles - Ac 2; 1 Co 1:10; 12:12-13; Gal 3:26-28; Eph 4:2-6; Phil 1:27; 2:2; Col 3:11-14; 1 Pe 3:8; 1 Jo 1:7; 3:16-18; 4:11, 20-21

B. Bearing with the Scruples of the Weak - vs 1a

1. Receiving one another with understanding - 14:1-12

2. Building up one another w/o offending - 14:13-23

3. responsibility of "We who are strong "

a. ***opheilo*** - to owe; to be under obligation (ought, must, should); morally, to fail in duty:--behave, be bound, (be) debt(-or), (be) due(-ty), be guilty (indebted), (must) need(-s), ought, owe, should.

i. Heb 5:3 refers to the high priest obligated to offer sacrifices for sins, the peoples, his own

ii. 1 Jo 2:6; 3:16; 4:11 - refers to a believer's obligation to walk like Christ

b. ***bastazo*** - to lift, (endure, declare, sustain, receive, etc.):--bear, carry, take up.

i. of a pitcher of water - Mk 14:13

ii. Of a man - Ac 21:35

iii. A yoke of obligation - Ac 15:10

c. the scruples of the weak

i. not just to tolerate

ii. To help carry them

- not by being critical or condescending

- by showing respect for views with which we disagree - Phil 2:3-4

iii. Not to please men, but to win them - Gal 1:10; 1 Co 9:19-22

B. Not Pleasing Ourselves - vs 1b-2

1. liberty is not for oneself

2. Let each of us please his neighbor

a. Let each of us - no exemptions

b. the objective 1Co 10:24,33

i. to promote his good

ii. leading to edification

C. Being Like Christ - vs 3

1. For even Christ did not please Himself; - Mt 26:39; Jo 5:30; 6:38

a. what His person could have demanded - Phil 2:6a

b. what He chose to do - Phil 2:6b-8

2. but as it is written, "The reproaches of those who reproached You fell on Me." - Ps 69:9;
 - a. the mindset change for the believer - Phil 2:5
 - b. the extent to which the mindset goes - 2 Co 5:21

D. Hope in the Scriptures - vs 4

1. For whatever things were written before were written for our learning,
 - a. obviously referring to divinely revealed truths in the OT
 - i. Inspiration - 2Ti 3:16-17
 - ii. Human writers carried by the Spirit - 2Pe 1:20-21
 - b. they are still valuable for us - **1 Co 10:6-11**
 - i. **didaskalia** - instruction (the function or the information):--doctrine, learning, teaching.
 - ii. **tupos** - a die (as struck), a stamp or scar; a shape, a statue, style or resemblance; a sampler ("type"), a model (for imitation) or instance (for warning):--en-(ex-)ample, fashion, figure, form, manner, pattern, print.
 - iii. **nouthesia** - calling attention to, mild rebuke or warning:--admonition.
2. that we through the patience and comfort of the Scriptures might have hope.
 - a. patience - **hupomone** - cheerful (or hopeful) endurance, constancy, enduring, patience, patient continuance (waiting). - Ro 5:3; Jas 1:2-3
 - b. comfort - **paraklesis** - imploration, hortation, solace:--comfort, consolation, exhortation, intreaty. - Ro 5:4; Heb 12:5
 - c. hope - **elpis** - expectation, confidence:--faith, hope. - Ro 5:4-5; 15:13; Ga 5:5

E. Dependence on God's Power - vs 5

1. Now may the God of patience and comfort
 - a. what God expects from us, He provides for us
 - b. He sovereignly brings trials into ones life to develop patience - Jas 1:2-3
 - c. He give comfort in the midst of trials so that we can give comfort to others - 2 Co 1:3-6
2. grant you to be like-minded toward one another, according to Christ Jesus,
 - a. Paul's prayer for them that God would grant
 - b. as with patience and comfort, what God expects, He provides
 - c. Paul's call here is to be of the same mind in areas of Christian liberty
 - i. to be loving, not judgmental
 - ii. Considerate of the weaker brother

F. Glorifying God with One Accord - vs 6

1. that you may with one mind and one mouth
 - a. with nothing that causes divisiveness between the members
 - b. mouth - **stoma** - the mouth; language (and its relations)
2. glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ.