



# Pleasing God Instead of Ourselves

Romans 15:1-6, Psalm 78:5-7

# Sustaining the Weaker Brother

- The fellowship of the saints is not to be broken for unessential matters.
- A person's spiritual maturity is revealed by his willingness to give up his rights that others might be helped.
- We should not use our strength to serve our own advantage.
- Mature believers are not to tolerate those with weaknesses but to help carry them.
- One person's strength can compensate for another person's weakness.

# Christian Liberty

- Christian liberty, which the strong believer understands and appreciates, often involves self-sacrifice.
- We are not to use our Christian strength to please our self or our own advantage.
- When Christians have a common purpose, they are boosted by the encouragement of others who share those same goals.
- We move ahead more easily if there is someone behind us encouraging us to stay on track and keep going.

# Pleasing Your Neighbor

- Our Christian convictions must not be a disguise for cold hearted treatment of our brothers and sisters.
- Instead of causing our neighbor to stumble, or tearing him down or damaging him, we are to build him up.
- We need to help weaker Christians become more mature in their Christian experience and convictions.
- Building up others in faith takes patience, faith and love.
- Jesus put the interests of others before His own.
- No sacrifice we could ever make could match the life and death of Jesus.

# The Word of God and Prayer

- Two sources of spiritual power are the Word of God and Prayer.
- Believers need the Scriptures so that they might have perseverance, encouragement, and hope.
- The Word of God brings us the perseverance and encouragement that we need.
- Hope can be misplaced.
- We should read our Bible diligently to increase our trust that God's will is the best hope for our best future.
- The local church must major in the Word of God and prayer.
- The first real danger to unity of the Jerusalem Church came because the apostles were so busy they could not adequately minister the Word and pray.

# Harmony

- When Scripture is well received, the Holy Spirit brings forth Christ's mind in the life of the believer and then in the life of the local church.
- Even in areas where the Bible is silent, there can be unity.
- God loves harmony in interpersonal relationships.
- Don't avoid healthy conflict; work out interpersonal issues with grace and patience.
- The result of singleness of purpose is to glorify God, not to please other believers.
- Without the unity of mind and heart that Jesus brings, worship is impossible.

# Conclusion

- An attitude of forbearance and tolerance of our weaknesses will promote a spirit of Christ-mindedness.
- The goal of the church is undermined when the fellowship of the saints is marred by suspicions and dissensions.
- Receive one another, build up one another, and please one another according to Christ's example, and glorify the Lord with your worship.