



Romans

Right With God

Get Together

Romans 14:13-15:13

Lesson Forty-Five

Mission Arlington/Mission Metroplex Curriculum

Romans

Right With God

Lesson Forty-Five

Page 2 of 4

Get Together

This lesson may seem to cover a lot of territory...many verses. However, we are actually dealing with only one subject. Paul was encouraging the Romans to understand that their new life in Christ made it possible for them to have good fellowship and to be kind to one another. It's about Christian unity. He says, Get Together! Read Romans 14:13, 16-18, 19; 15:1-7, 13.

Paul says, first of all, that there are things that are just fine to one person, but totally un-acceptable to another. He also says that he is "fully convinced" that no food is unclean in itself. The idea is that there are things in life that are fine with one person, but would insult someone else. Paul's discussion here is about food, which we have discussed in a previous lesson. However the larger and more important issue is behavior of people who aren't sensitive to the problems of others. It is about divisions over things that aren't important.

People of strong faith may be able to do things that someone else would be hurt by. The other person, may be just beginning the Christian life, or maybe coming out of another religion that had certain rules that continue to be important to that person. Let's take a very simple example: One person may feel that it is OK to have a glass of wine with dinner. Another person has always believed that drinking any alcoholic beverage is sinful. Now, the second person may accept the invitation to have some wine with dinner, but all through dinner the second person's conscience would trouble him or her.

Paul's advice is unmistakable. He says that Christians should do that which leads to peace and mutual edification (helping one another grow in Christ). He says don't destroy God's work in the life of an individual just because whatever hurts that person will not hurt you. He says that you should do nothing that will cause someone else to fail in their Christian living.

His advice to the person who has doubts or feels uncomfortable is, if you can't do something and keep your good relationship with Christ, just don't do it. It is important that Christians realize that our faith is an internal thing, and so, to focus on external things is not helpful.

In verse seventeen, Paul says that real Christian living includes righteousness, peace, and joy. These are the work of God's Holy Spirit in us.

Moving into the fifteenth chapter, Paul continues his discussion of the strong and the weak and the importance of Christian fellowship. He encourages all Christians to care for and have fellowship with other Christians, not to be tolerant of their failings, but to encourage them and build them up. Christian love has always been about seeking the highest good of others.

Paul recommended Scripture to the Romans. He said, in verse four, that God's Word teaches and encourages us and gives us hope. And, he prays that God will give them endurance and encouragement. The word endurance here assumes that there will be difficulties. Paul knew that they

Romans

Right With God

Lesson Forty-Five

would have persecution and other problems. He prays that, along with the help they get from Scriptures, God, Himself, will come to them encouraging them and helping them through the trials and troubles they will face. And, the outcome of this endurance and encouragement was that they would be of one heart, unified in purpose, and one voice, speaking together of what God has done for them and in them. All that, Paul says will glorify God, the Father.

In verse seven of chapter fifteen, Paul tells the folks in Rome that they should accept one another just like Christ accepted them. Jesus gives grace without consideration of who you are, where you live or what you have done. Paul said that the Romans were to follow the example of Jesus, not anyone else. He goes on to demonstrate that he has not just made all of this up. He quotes from the Old Testament, verses nine through twelve, words from the Psalms, Isaiah and Deuteronomy. All of these prove his point. In all of these, he saw forecasts of the reception of the Gentiles.

In verse thirteen he prays again that God will fill them with joy, peace in their faith and hope through the power of God's Holy Spirit.

Scripture Memory: “May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in Him.” Romans 15:13a

*Underlined statements in this Teacher’s Guide appear in the Student Worksheet with blanks to be filled in by the student during the lesson. Words in the Student Worksheet may not appear exactly as printed in the Teacher’s Guide.

For the Teacher:

Lesson Goal: To assist students to understand the importance of unity and peace in the church.

1. This is a long Scripture passage. It does have unity. Paul was dealing with a problem or problems in the church at Rome. There were factions. The most obvious is that there were Jews and Gentiles in the church and many Jews of that day were practicing Judaism (according to the Law) and encouraging Gentile Christians to do the same. There was also, as we have seen already, disagreement related to diet...what they were free to eat as Christians that they had not been free to eat and drink in their former religion(s).
2. Paul desires for the church to make Jesus their model. Jesus had set the example for equal rights in salvation and Christian living. In 15:8, Paul says that Jesus came as a servant of the Jews. It would seem that Paul was saying that the Jews were the only ones for whom Christ came to earth and thus, the only ones for whom He died. This is not what Paul is saying. Jesus came as a Jew, speaking the language and living in the culture of the Jews. Jesus trained disciples to carry the message beyond the Jews. His Great Commission, Matthew 28:19, 20, charged His disciples, and all those of us who came after them, to take what Jesus had said to everyone. Acts 1:8, spells it out geographically: Jerusalem, Judea, Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.
3. Paul's list of some of the greatest of Christian words. (15:13) **First**, hope: It has been said that there are no hopeless situations, only people who have grown hopeless about them. There is no hopelessness when we depend on the power of God. **Second**, there is joy: Christians are not dependent on outside factors for joy. Nothing can separate us from the love of God, and our source of true joy is God in us. **Third**, peace: This is the inner assurance spoken to the Christian by God's own Holy Spirit. It is the settled state of full trust in God. **Fourth**, there is power: This is what we need most. But, we can't work up enough power in and of ourselves. Christ living in us provides the power we need for our daily tasks, even the tragedies, the confrontations with Satan, as well as everything else that would harm us for eternity. Alone we are hopeless, with our Lord, everything is possible. Unity comes when these four things are present.

Romans

Right With God

Lesson Forty-Five

Page 4 of 4

Student Worksheet

Get Together

=Paul was encouraging the Romans to understand that their _____ in Christ made it possible for them to have _____ fellowship and to be _____ to one another.

=People of strong _____ may be able to do things that someone else would be _____ by.

=He says that you should do _____ that will cause someone else to _____ in their Christian living.

=His advice to the person who has _____ or feels uncomfortable is, if you _____ do something and keep your _____ relationship with Christ, just _____ do it.

=Christian _____ has always been about seeking the highest _____ of others.

=He prays that, along with the help they get from _____, God, Himself, will come to them encouraging them and _____ them through the trials and _____ they will face.

=In verse thirteen he _____ again that God will fill them with _____, _____ in their _____ and _____ through the _____ of God's Holy Spirit.

Scripture Memory: "May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in Him." Romans 15:13a

A Roman Road to Salvation:

Romans 3:23 "For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God." Everyone is a sinner and needs salvation.

Romans 6:23a "For the wages of sin is death." The law of God is unchangeable. If someone sins the penalty must be paid, the payment is death.

Romans 5:8 "But God demonstrates His own love for us in this: While we were still sinners Christ died for us." God loves us so much, according to John 3:16, that He sent His Son, Jesus, to die for our sins.

Romans 6:23b "But the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord." The penalty for sin is spiritual death, but God, through the death of Jesus on the cross, took the penalty for the sins of all people, and now everyone can have eternal life. See also, II Corinthians 5:21

Romans 10:9, 10 "That if you confess with your mouth, 'Jesus is Lord,' and believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead, you will be saved. For it is with your heart that you believe and are justified, and it is with your mouth that you confess and are saved." To personally receive the gift of God, eternal life in Christ Jesus, you trust God to be what He says He is. Believing that "God raised Him (Jesus) from the dead" is to accept all that the Bible says about God and His Son, Jesus. Then you speak (confess) the words, "Jesus is Lord," as a statement of faith. Believing "with your heart" means that you believe with your mind and with everything that you are.

Romans 10:13 "Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved." You have the promise of God Himself that if you do what Romans 10:9, 10 says, you will become God's child and have eternal life.

Romans 12:1, 2 "I urge you brothers, in view of God's mercy, to offer your bodies as living sacrifices, holy and pleasing to God—this is your spiritual act of worship. Do not conform any longer to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is—His good, pleasing and perfect will." Becoming a Christian is a life-long act of faith and worship.