

Title: Pleasing Others

Text: Romans 15:1-13

Take your Bibles, please, and turn to Romans chapter 15. Romans 15 Now, the whole content started back in chapter 14 verse 1. There are three principles that help us to get along with people. And boy we need that don't we? (1) Number one is don't judge one another. That is in chapter 14 verese 1 thru 12. The issue there is accountability to God. Every one of us will give account to God, so why are we judging people. Why are we playing God.

(2)Two, don't cause another believer to stumble. That is chapter 14 verses 13 to 23. And the issue here is LOVE FOR ONE ANOTHER. Jesus said, "By this will all people know that you are my disciples, if you have love one for anothe

Well, one of the areas where that is really tested is when you run into a brother or sister that doesn't agree with you in a matter that is really not that important. It is a minor point. Yet, you disagree strongly over what you should do as a christian. If you are a strong bother or sister in the faith then you are willing to give up your rights in order to not cause anothe believer to stumble. How do you cause a believer to stumble? By causeing him to go against his conscience. It can be any kind of a matter. But the Bible says that we are not walking in love when we try to persuade a brother to go against his conscience. And these issues then become issues that divide us. Because we become insistent that we are correct. If the Bible does not clearly say what direction we should take, then the path we need to follow is LOVE. A willingness in my freedom to give up my personal disires and wishes for the benefit of another brother or sister in Christ who may stumble through my example. So, that was principle number two.

(3)Principle number threee is in chapter 15 verses 1-13. Our message for today. And that is don't please yourself. And the issue here is UNITY in order to glorify God. That God is glorified when Christians get along with each other. When we are like minded. And in orde to achieve that we are going to have to stop pleasing ourselves.

So, pleaseing others is the name of the game if we are going to get along in the body of Christ. And if we are really going to glorify God.

Now, supposedly that is why we are all down here. Supposedly if you are a Christian, that is your real priority.

I Corinthians 10:31 says "whether we eat or drink or whatever we do, do all to the glory of God."

Now, you want to glorify God. You are sincere in that. You are committed to that. Well, that is great. Then don't please yourself. Seek to please other

Now, if you are using the notes that I passed out, in these 13 verses we are going to look at three things. This principle about DON'T PLEASE YOURSELF involves three things.

(1) One, a special responsibility. That is found in verese 1 to 4.

(2) Two, a spiritual reason for it. Verses 5 and 6.

(3) Third, a specific result if it really happens. Verses 7 to 13.

Now let"s read it. CHAPTER 15 verse 1 (Read Vs 1-13)

LET"S LOOK TO THE LORD IN PRAYER

(3) Don't please yourself. (1) Now, that involves a special responsibility.

Vs 1 says, "Now we who are strong." Now, that involves everyone of us in this room...AMEN?...Remember, the normal tendency of our heart is to believe that the other person is weak. "WE WHO ARE STRONG." It is interesting how Paul would approach the conclusion of this whole matter. "WE WHO ARE STRONG OUGHT TO BEAR THE WEAKNESSES OF THOSE WITHOUT STRENGTH AND NOT JUST PLEASE OURSELVES."

That special responsibility if we are going to get along with each other, is to bear the weaknesses of the weak.

Turn over to Galations chapter 6. Galatians chapter 6.....I don't know how many of us are really committed to do this. As I was studying this I thought to myself, is this really my day by day commitment? God says in our text that we glorify him when we seek to get along with each other in this way.