

UNITY IS MINISTRY

Hope, Joy and Peace ~ A Work of the Holy Spirit

Exposition of Romans, LV

Romans 15:8-13

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INTRODUCTION

I. UNITY IS BASED ON CHRIST AND BRINGS GLORY TO GOD ~ 15:7

FOR FURTHER STUDY: Psalm 119:36; II Thessalonians 2:16; 3:5; Hebrews 13:2; I Peter 4:9

II. UNITY EXEMPLIFIED IN THE SERVANT-LEADERSHIP OF CHRIST ~ 15:8-9a

*FOR FURTHER STUDY: Matthew 20:28; Mark 10:45; Galatians 3:28-29; 4:4-5, 16;
II Corinthians 1:20*

III. UNITY YIELDS JOY & HOPE TO THE SINNER AND GLORY TO GOD ~ 15:9b-12

FOR FURTHER STUDY: Lamentations 3:21-24; Hebrews 11:33-38; Revelation 2:10

IV. UNITY THAT YIELDS PEACE & JOY IS A WORK OF THE HOLY SPIRIT ~ 15:13

*FOR FURTHER STUDY: Psalm 71:5; Luke 11:5-8; II Corinthians 6:10a; Philippians 4:6-7;
Titus 2:13; Hebrews 11:1; I John 3:2-3*

CONCLUSION

*FOR FURTHER STUDY: Psalm 33:9; John 3:6-8; Romans 8:15-17, 26; I Corinthians 2:9-13; 6:11;
Galatians 5:16-23; Ephesians 1:13-14; 3:16-17; 4:30*

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Per Rev. Stephen Cole, Rebecca Manley Pippert concludes her book, *Out of the Salt Shaker & into the World* [IVP, 1979], pp. 177-178) with this story. When she first went to Portland, Oregon, to work with a campus ministry, she met a student named Bill. He was always disheveled in his appearance, and he never wore shoes. Rain, sleet, or snow, Bill was always barefoot.

Bill became a Christian, but his appearance didn't change. Near the campus was a church made up of mostly well-dressed, middle-class people. One Sunday Bill decided to worship there. He walked into church with his messy hair, blue jeans, tee shirt, and barefoot. People looked a bit uncomfortable, but no one said anything. Bill began walking down the aisle, looking for a seat. But the church was quite crowded that day, so he got all the way down front without finding a seat. So he just plopped on the carpet, which was fine for a college Bible study, but a bit unnerving for this rather formal church. You could feel the tension in the air.

Suddenly, an elderly man began walking down the aisle toward Bill. Was he going to scold him about how you're supposed to look when you come to church? People thought, "You can't blame him for what he's going to do. His world is far removed from that boy's world for him to understand."

As the man kept walking slowly down the aisle, all eyes were on him. You could hear a pin drop. When the man reached Bill, with some difficulty he lowered himself and sat down next to Bill on the carpet. He and Bill worshiped together on the carpet that day. There was not a dry eye in that church.

That elderly man was practicing what Paul is talking about here [Romans 15:1-13]. He was accepting a young man who appeared to be very different than he was because he recognized that Christ had accepted him. When we do that, God is glorified.

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