

# What's Killing Our Unity?

## Romans 15:5-7

What is actually killing our unity? Because something is. In Romans 15:5-7, Paul is writing to the church in Rome - a congregation he has never visited, full of people he has never met. In these three verses, there is a wealth of things to consider. Today, we'll ask, what kills our unity, and what does God say about it?

### I. We've Confused Unity with Uniformity

A. Romans 15:1: *Now we who are strong have an \_\_\_\_\_ to bear the weaknesses of those without strength, and not to please ourselves*

1. "Obligation" is not a suggestion. It's a responsibility.

B. Romans 15:3: *For even Christ did not please himself. This statement drives the entire passage.*

C. Romans 15:7: *Therefore \_\_\_\_\_ one another, just as Christ also welcomed you, to the glory of God.*

1. "to take someone fully into your fellowship. See them as a companion."

2. "To grant access to one's heart." "To take into friendship."

D. How This is Accomplished

1. \_\_\_\_\_ passing judgment on a weaker brother.

2. \_\_\_\_\_ yourself to live for Christ.

3. \_\_\_\_\_ your attitudes and emotions with love.

4. \_\_\_\_\_ everyone you can.

5. \_\_\_\_\_ hold to your personal convictions.

6. \_\_\_\_\_ people like Jesus did.

E. How did Christ Receive You? Romans 15:7: *just as Christ also welcomed you.*

### II. We've Made Secondary Things Primary

A. Romans 15:5: *Now may the God who gives endurance and encouragement grant you to \_\_\_\_\_ with one another, according to Christ Jesus,*

1. His answer isn't ... figure out who's right and make the other side comply.

B. Those that we draw lines against ... Christ died for them.

### III. We've Forgotten What We're For

A. Romans 15:6: *so that you may glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ*

1. One mind. One voice. This is the goal.

2. When we become fragmented and fractured: God is not glorified and the world doesn't see Jesus ... they see us.

B. And really, it's not about us.

1. Romans 15:7: *Therefore welcome one another, just as Christ also welcomed you, to*

2. Note how our welcoming each other is actually an act of worship.

C. Compare John 17:21: \_\_\_\_\_, as you, Father, are in me and I am in you. May they also be in us, so that the world may believe you sent me.

1. When Christ welcomed you, he was making an investment - not just in you, but in what your life joined to others would produce for His Father's glory.

### IV. As We Close...

A. We have truth. God's word is settled. Christ is Lord. But, truth is not a weapon, or a wall, or a membership card. You hold it ... according to Christ Jesus. He is the standard.

B. Here's Where We Start:

1. Look at the person sitting beside you today - Ask yourself: Did Christ receive them?

2. If He did, what right do we have to do anything else?

## Questions

1. Where have you held a strong conviction about a church practice or preference, certain you were right only to realize later it wasn't as settled as you thought?

2. In your experience, where do you see the church sliding from the pursuit of unity into the demand for uniformity? What's the real-world difference between the two?

3. What are the secondary things in your church experience that have had a way of quietly becoming primary and how did that happen?

4. Think of someone who was genuinely hard for you to welcome what did it actually cost you to receive them the way Christ received you?

5. Can you think of a time when you witnessed Christian unity that was simply unexplainable apart from God — and what did people outside the church do when they saw it?

## Answers

Treasure  
One mind and one voice  
Commit  
Obligation  
May they all be one  
Privately  
The glory of God  
Welcome  
Live in harmony  
Avoid  
Edify  
Control