

# Soul-Full: Living Out a Robust Faith

## A Study in Romans

### Week 10- Romans 15-16- Others Focused

#### I. We are responsible for the weak – Romans 15:1-3

We must not please ourselves but our neighbors – we are our brother’s keeper.

*For even Christ pleased not himself.* The self-denial of our Lord Jesus is the best argument against the selfishness of Christians.<sup>1</sup>

Philippians 2:5-11

#### II. We are to know the Word – Romans 15:4

All of the Old Testament was written for our instruction so that through the Scriptures we might have hope.

Endurance – Patience – literally “patient endurance”  
Encouragement – Comfort – literally means to “strengthen”

#### III. We are to be mature – Romans 15:5-12

They were to be like-minded, “so that with *one* accord you may with *one* voice glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ” (Romans 15:6).

1 Cor. 1:10; Phil. 1:27

Sin separates. If we walk in the Spirit, we will have the one mind and voice that Paul is commending. It is when we revert to the flesh and live as the carnal Christian that strife and jealousy are named among us. These “red flags” of the flesh are a warning that we have slipped from the spiritual into the flesh. At that point, repentance will bring us back into communion with the Lord and with fellow believers.

“If their community life was harmonious, God would be glorified by their united worship and united witness” (F. F. Bruce, *Romans*, p. 254).

---

<sup>1</sup> Henry, M. (1994). *Matthew Henry’s commentary on the whole Bible: Complete and unabridged in one volume* (2236). Peabody: Hendrickson.

Jew and Gentile are to receive each other as Christ has received us, welcoming us into the family of God.

**IV. We are to care for the poor – Romans 15:25-27**

Paul had been taking up a collection from the Gentile churches that he had planted for the church in Jerusalem. The sending church became the receiving church. Further details are given in 1 Corinthians 16:1-4 and 2 Corinthians 8:1-9:15.

**V. We are to love the brethren – Romans 16:1-16**

Phoebe – servant of the church, deliverer of the letter to the Romans was with Paul in Corinth.

There are 24 people specifically named in the church at Rome, seventeen men and seven women. There are also two households within which Christians dwelt as well as some unnamed brethren.

“He doesn’t lump them all together and say, ‘Greetings to all the saints at Rome.’ Love delights to single out its objects and recall them one by one. Love particularizes. ‘He calleth his own sheep by name,’ said the good Shepherd describing His intimate knowledge of each one (John 10:3)” (John Phillips, *Exploring Romans*, p. 263).

“It is a list of friendships to be made hereafter, and to be possessed forever in the endless life where personality indeed shall be eternal, but where also the union of personalities in Christ shall be beyond our utmost present thought” (John Phillips, *Exploring Romans*, p. 269).

**VI. We are to be on guard against false teaching – Romans 16:17-20**

Christ commanded us to be, “wise as serpents and innocent as doves” (Mt. 10:16). We must be on guard against heretical teaching. There are those who take a portion of the truth and bend it to fit their purposes and intentions. We must not be guilty of mindlessly following, but must take all teaching to Scripture to verify its truthfulness and fidelity to God’s Word.

**VII. Conclusion – Romans 16:21-27**