

# BIBLE & BAGEL

## Romans – Our Common Faith

30 March 2016

*Apostle Paul emphasizes the importance of unity within the body; this was something he was very concerned about. He spends much time in this epistle talking about it. Unity is a fragile thing and since the church is often described as His body we realize that a body must be whole to function correctly and be effective. Apostle Paul continues to urge the two parties, Jews and Gentiles to live harmoniously...*

### Romans 15:1-6

15 We then who are strong ought to bear with the scruples of the weak, and not to please ourselves. 2 Let each of us please his neighbor for his good, leading to edification. 3 For even Christ did not please Himself; but as it is written, "The reproaches of those who reproached You fell on Me." 4 For whatever things were written before were written for our learning, that we through the patience and comfort of the Scriptures might have hope. 5 Now may the God of patience and comfort grant you to be like-minded toward one another, according to Christ Jesus, 6 that you may with one mind and one mouth glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ.

### Glorify God Together

Those who are stronger ought to bear with the convictions of those who are weaker, remember that the topic of the Apostle's conversation here is food and the issue was some eating food that caused others in the congregation to stumble. He tells of how Messiah did not live to please himself but to please the Father, he quotes Psalm 69:9 to show this saying that those things that were written in the past were written for the good of those who are living in the present time, so that we might be hopeful. So he prays that God would grant them unity so that they would all glorify God together.

Let's keep in mind that the subject matter here is some people eating food that others felt they should not, i.e. Jews stumbling at Gentiles eating food that was not forbidden in the Bible. These Gentiles were apparently boasting and considering the Jews as "immature". Apostle Paul admonishes such people not to live just for their own sakes but for the sake of others, this is the kind of sacrificial living that he spoke about in chapter 12; to offer our bodies, i.e. our physical needs as sacrifices.

Sometimes in the church we find people who consider themselves more "mature" boasting about how much they know and they may be right yet their boastful attitude turns people off and causes some not to want to fellowship with the church, this is especially of pre-believers or new believers. Those who are more mature, should humble or lower themselves to raise those who are younger. Remember that before we can pick someone else up, we have to get down to their level. It is when this attitude is prevalent in the church that God will be glorified.

### Romans 15:7-13

7 Therefore receive one another, just as Christ also received us, to the glory of God. 8 Now I say that Jesus Christ has become a servant to the circumcision for the truth of God, to confirm the promises made to the fathers, 9 and that the Gentiles might glorify God for His mercy, as it is written: "For this reason I will confess to You among the Gentiles, and sing to Your name." 10 And again he says: "Rejoice, O Gentiles, with His people!" 11 And again: "Praise the Lord, all you Gentiles! Laud Him, all you peoples!"



12 And again, Isaiah says: "There shall be a root of Jesse; and He who shall rise to reign over the Gentiles, in Him the Gentiles shall hope." 13 Now may the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit. NKJV

He says that Yeshua died for both Jew and Gentile; for the Jews to affirm the promises of God that He had made to their fathers i.e. Abraham, Isaac and Jacob. He also died for the Gentiles so that they would declare His mercy to all.

Then He reminds them how God has in several places in the Bible declared that Gentiles and Jews are meant to serve Him together:

Deuteronomy 32:43 – Gentiles are to rejoice together with Israel

Psalm 117:1 – Gentiles are called to praise the Lord

Isaiah 11:10 – the descendant of Jesse (King David's father, i.e. descendant of David) will rule over Gentiles as well and give them hope.

And he prays that God will fill them all with hope.

Apostle Paul says that we should receive each other as God has received us, think about this, how did God receive us? He did not tell us to go up to His level, instead He came down to our level, He became a man and paid the price for our sin so that we could be accepted by the father. Once accepted then he calls to:

Rejoice with His covenant people, Israel, the key word here is "with", so we must rejoice together with Israel.

We are to Praise God and remember that our King is the King of Israel, the Son of David.

So as Gentiles we must be connected with the Jewish people.

