

Romans # 26

Romans 15¹⁻¹³

How to foster unity in the church

Lord's day morning: 29 April 2007
Preacher: Geoff Findlay

Children's talk: Precious oil

Introduction

Doing what comes naturally!

1. Don't do what comes naturally (15¹⁻²)

Bear with others' failings by joining them (1)

Pleasing yourself by not pleasing yourself (1)

Pleasing your neighbour without becoming a man-pleaser (2)

2. Why shouldn't I? (15³⁻⁷)

Because Christ didn't (3)

Because everything in the Bible encourages you not to (4)

Because God is with you (5)

Because Christ accepted you (7)

3. What's the point? (15²⁻⁷)

The church is edified – more than maintenance-mode (2)

The church is unified – more than a mere appearance of unity (5)

God is glorified – more than lip-service (6-7)

4. Who's important around here? (15⁷⁻¹²)

The Jews are important (8)

The Gentiles are important (9-12)

Everyone is important (8-12)

You are important (5-7)

Conclusion (15¹³)

What overflows from you? (13)



Questions answered



What does it generally mean for us to do what comes naturally?



What are the likely consequences of this in the church?



What does it mean to bear with others' failings?



Where should people be leaving their burdens & baggage?

What can we do for them if they do not see this as clearly as they should?



Is there something inherently wrong with experiencing pleasure ourselves?

When is it wrong to please ourselves?



How does Christ's example encourage us not to please ourselves?



How do the example of other Biblical characters encourage us not to please ourselves?



In what state were we when Christ accepted us?

What are the implications of this for how we accept one another?



What does it mean for the church to be edified?



What is the difference between building and maintaining?

How does this apply to our role in the church?



What is significant about having a "spirit of unity"?

How does this relate to Christ as the way, the truth and the life?



What is our ultimate aim in the church?



Who is important in the church of Jesus Christ?



What is meant to overflow out of us to others according to this text and other passages of Scripture?



Things to pray about



Be astounded at how gracious God is in His acceptance of us warts & all.



Someone in the congregation very different from me whom I could get alongside.



Something I could forgo for the sake of my brothers & sisters in Christ.