

# Romans 15<sup>2</sup>

## When should I defer to my brother?

Lord's day evening: 11 Feb 2007  
Preacher: Geoff Findlay

### Introduction

A question from the floor

Please help me!

Rom 15<sup>2</sup>

### 1. When I am personally offended

Is the gospel really at stake?

Gal 2<sup>4-5</sup>

Is it deduced by good and necessary consequence?

WCF 1<sup>6</sup>

Am I angry about something?

James 1<sup>20</sup>

### 2. When I don't understand

Have I taken the trouble?

James 1<sup>19</sup>

Where am I?

1 Cor 12<sup>25</sup>

### 3. When I have opportunity to build him up

What's more important – his interests or mine?

Phil 2<sup>4</sup>

What is my hope for him?

Eph 1

### Conclusion

Not my will, but Yours be done!

Luke 22<sup>42</sup>

### Discussion

Do any of these points need further clarification or qualification?

When else should I defer to my brother?

When should I not defer to my brother?

If I am a child, when should I defer to my parents?



### Questions answered



What does it mean to defer to someone?



Why should I defer to my brother when it is a matter of personal offence?



On what matters should I refuse to defer to anyone?



What is the teaching of the *Westminster Confession of Faith* (WCF 1<sup>6</sup>) concerning the sufficiency of Scripture? (see *Trinity Hymnal*, p848)  
What does the WCF mean by “good and necessary consequence”?  
How does this relate to the question of deferring to my brother?



What do we often mistake for righteous anger?



Why should I defer to my brother when I do not understand him?



To what extent do we have a responsibility to try to understand our brother?



To what extent do we have a responsibility to try to understand what edifies our brother?



How does the Lord's principle of “it is more blessed to give than to receive” apply to this matter.



What is our hope for our brother?



How does the pattern of our Lord Jesus Christ help us come to grips with this whole matter?



### Things to pray about



Wisdom to discern when it is right to defer to my brother, and when I should stand firm.



A deep desire to really understand our brothers and sisters, and to be a blessing to them.



A greater appreciation of the meaning of the sacrifice of my Saviour, and the implications that has for how I live.