



Lesson 48 “Endure and Encourage”

Romans 15:1-5

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Read 1 Corinthians 9:19-23. A reminder from yesterday’s questions: what does Paul gladly submit in order to advance the Gospel?

Does he compromise truth as he does this?

Read 1 Corinthians 5:9-13. There are some matters that we should stand firm on God’s truth and *not* place unity above God’s word. Paul lists some of those here. In verse 11 he talks about those who call themselves believers but who act in what ways? (I count 6 things.) What should you not even do with such a one? Why not? Who does Paul *call us to judge*?

Please understand these things that Paul talks about in this passage are things that demonstrate that the person in question is not a true believer or they would not continue to love the things of the flesh, but would be craving the things of God.

Read Galatians 6:2-3. What should the believer bear?

How does this fulfill the law of Christ?

How can we deceive ourselves?

Read Philippians 2:1-4. How could the believers in Philippi “complete” Paul’s joy?

What should not be a characteristic of what we do?

What should be?

Whose interests should we focus on?

Read Ephesians 4:32-5:2. How should we behave toward other believers?

Who should we imitate? How should we walk?

As you spend time with God today, ask Him to help you to focus on being in harmony with the body of Christ. Ask Him to help you to dig deeply into His word to be able to discern what is true, and ask Him to help you to stand for those things with grace and love.

Ask Him to soften your heart to any resentment or hurt you have toward a brother or sister in Christ over a non-essential issue. Ask Him to help you to be aware of those issues and to agree to disagree with love. Thank Him for His Word, which we can go to at any time, to see what is true and right and good. Praise Him for His provision and ask Him to continue to work all things for unity that honors HIM within the body, without sacrificing truth.