

One Church

Romans 14.1-15.13

Introduction

- Why do churches die?
- a house divided cannot stand
 - Matthew 12.25; Mark 3.25; Luke 11.17
- What fractures unity in the church?

Main Points – we can nurture unity in the church through...

1. Building up – 14.1: ***As for the one who is weak in faith, welcome him, but not to quarrel over opinions.***
 - a. focus on what we have in common instead of arguing over differences
 - i. Titus 3.8-10
 - b. how can we avoid foolish quarrels and controversies?
 - i. _____
 - ii. _____
 - iii. _____
2. Standing up – 14.13: ***Therefore let us not pass judgment on one another any longer, but rather decide never to put a stumbling block or hindrance in the way of a brother.***
 - a. commit to being someone that helps other people stand firm in the faith
 - i. In 1Corinthians 8.12-13
 - b. How can we become aware of potential stumbling blocks?
 - i. _____
 - ii. _____
 - iii. _____
 - iv. _____
3. Bearing up – 15.1: ***We who are strong have an obligation to bear with the failings of the weak, and not to please***

ourselves.

- a. endure and encourage the “weaker brother” to realize the greater hope
 - i. Galatians 6.1-3
 - b. if you know someone who has lost their way, walk with them, lead them home
 - i. _____
 - ii. _____
 - iii. _____
4. Looking up – 15.8-9: ***“that Christ became a servant to the circumcised to show God’s truthfulness, in order to confirm the promises given to the patriarchs, and in order that the Gentiles might glorify God for his mercy.”***
 - a. keep Jesus in mind at all times; all for One – Jesus is the One
 - i. Ephesians 4.3-6
 - b. stay close to Jesus so that you don’t forget what this is all about
 - i. _____
 - ii. _____

Conclusion

- Unity is an egg: strong yet fragile
- How do we build unity?
 - by building each other up
 - by respecting each other
 - by being compassionate and patient with one another, and
 - by making sure we don’t exclude people from worshipping God
- Despite all our differences we are one Church.

Amen.