

Bible Study
Romans 14-15:7 (3)

Study Romans 15:1-7

1. Paul addressed the 'strong'. Who are the strong? Do we conclude that the main burden for peace within the church on the issues of liberty lies upon the strong?
2. What do you consider yourself to be: *strong or weak in the faith* (which is not the same as having a strong or weak faith!)
3. How do you practically bear the infirmities of the weak?
4. We are to edify (build up in the faith) our neighbors. Does that include teaching the weak in the faith about their conscience scruples so they may experience more the liberty of the Gospel?
5. The context of the chapter determines the interpretation of the text. Therefore, as Paul is dealing with the issue of Christian liberty, this means that vs. 3-4 also falls within this subject.

Albert Barnes commented on this verse as follows,

"There may be another idea which the apostle had here. He bore with patience the ignorance, blindness, erroneous views, and ambitious projects of his disciples. He evinced kindness to them when in error; and was not harsh, censorious, or unkind, when they were filled with vain projects of ambition, or perverted his words, or were dull of apprehension. Christ was willing to suffer reproach and contempt in order to do good to others. Christ was willing to suffer reproach and contempt in order to do good to others."

- a. Based on those thoughts, what are we to take along from this exhortation vs. 3-4 with regard to our own church family?
- b. Are we sometimes to question or push certain unnecessary (unbiblical) boundaries, even if that would lead to being censured or ill spoken of?
- c. How is the exhortation in vs. 4 to encourage us?
6. Why would Paul introduce God *in this context* as the God of patience?
7. Does vs. 6-7 mean, "Brothers and sisters, stop arguing about the things that don't matter to God. Instead focus on glorying God together in being likeminded, accepting each other, not judging each other in things that others feel at liberty to do?"
8. We to receive (which means acknowledge) each other as Christians and treat one another as such even though you may not agree with some of the habits and choices of your fellow brother or sister. The model of how to do this is 'as Christ also received us!' Can you flesh this out together? How did Christ (and does Christ) receive us? What does He put up with in us? How does He handle us when He sees things that are even directly contradictory to His revealed will?