

Intolerance and Sound Faith are not the Same Thing

Romans 15:1-7

Romans 15:1-7

- “We then who are strong ought to bear with the scruples of the weak, and not to please ourselves. 2 Let each of us please his neighbor for his good, leading to edification. 3 For even Christ did not please Himself; but as it is written, The reproaches of those who reproached You fell on Me. 4 For whatever things were written before were written for our learning, that we through the patience and comfort of the Scriptures might have hope. 5 Now may the God of patience and comfort grant you to be like-minded toward one another, according to Christ Jesus, 6 that you may with one mind and one mouth glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ. 7 Therefore receive one another, just as Christ also received us, to the glory of God.”

Romans 15:1-7

- How can I be sound in the faith and be in fellowship others who differ from me?
- How many ways can we differ from each other?
 - How many people are there in this room?
 - Now, how many matters exist in which God has granted liberty?
 - Multiply the first number times the second to get the answer.

Romans 15:1-7

- Our differences are a blessing.
 - It creates pressure to study and share our understanding
 - It gives us opportunities to practice love and fellowship
 - It makes life interesting; if everyone were the same, this would be a boring world.

Romans 15:1-7

- Tolerance is in fashion today
- There are some things that can't be tolerated.
- However, just as the Lord loves every soul and retains His righteousness, so as His children, we can love every soul and remain sound in the faith

The Duty Of Tolerance

- Rom. 15:1-2 - “Ought” introduces the condition of obligation.
- Live a crucified life - Rom. 15:1
 - “Bear” is the same word used in John 19:17, Jesus bearing His cross
 - Gal. 6:2 - Bear the burdens of our brother.
 - Connotes self-denial and self-sacrifice.

The Duty Of Tolerance

- Live a constructive life - Rom. 15:2
 - Paul is not saying that we should live to please everybody
 - He is not teaching that we should compromise our standards just to make someone happy
 - He is not advocating pleasing everyone at any cost

The Duty Of Tolerance

- Paul is saying that we are to live the kind of lives that build others up
 - Rom. 14:19 - “Therefore let us pursue the things which make for peace and the things by which one may edify another.”
 - 1Cor. 10:23 - “All things are lawful for me, but not all things are helpful; all things are lawful for me, but not all things edify.”
 - 1Thes. 5:11 - “Therefore comfort each other and edify one another, just as you also are doing.”

The Demonstration Of Tolerance

- Rom. 15:3-4 - Jesus and others showed the way
- What did Jesus do?
 - 1Peter 2:21 - “For to this you were called, because Christ also suffered for us, leaving us an example, that you should follow His steps”

The Demonstration Of Tolerance

- He left Heaven
 - Phil. 2:5-8 - “Let this mind be in you which was also in Christ Jesus, 6 who, being in the form of God, did not consider it robbery to be equal with God, 7 but made Himself of no reputation, taking the form of a bondservant, and coming in the likeness of men. 8 And being found in appearance as a man, He humbled Himself and became obedient to the point of death, even the death of the cross.”
- He suffered poverty
 - Matt. 8:20 - “And Jesus said to him, Foxes have holes and birds of the air have nests, but the Son of Man has nowhere to lay His head.”

The Demonstration Of Tolerance

- He was reproached, hated, and rejected by those He came to save
 - John 1:11 - “He came to His own, and His own did not receive Him”
- His own family refused to believe in Him
 - John 7:5 - “For even His brothers did not believe in Him.”

The Demonstration Of Tolerance

- Ultimately, He was nailed to a cross and died there for a people who hated Him, so that they might live
- The question is: are we willing to manifest the spirit of Christ toward the lost and toward brethren who differ from us?
- It is either be like Christ or be lost in Hell; there are no other choices

The Demonstration Of Tolerance

- John 4:34 - “Jesus said to them, My food is to do the will of Him who sent Me, and to finish His work.”
- John 8:29 - “And He who sent Me is with Me. The Father has not left Me alone, for I always do those things that please Him.”
- Rom. 12:1 - “I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that you present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable to God, which is your reasonable service.”

The Demonstration Of Tolerance

- Heb. 12:2-4 - “Looking unto Jesus, the author and finisher of our faith, who for the joy that was set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God. 3 For consider Him who endured such hostility from sinners against Himself, lest you become weary and discouraged in your souls. 4 You have not yet resisted to bloodshed, striving against sin.”

The Demonstration Of Tolerance

- The encouragement of the scriptures
 - When Jesus was tempted, He used the Word of God - Matt. 4:1-11.
 - When He was on the cross, He quoted the Scriptures three times - Matt. 27:46; John 19:28; Luke 23:46

The Demonstration Of Tolerance

- When difficult days come, and they will, you can go to the word of God and find help and strength to make it through.
- No one ever said that the Christian life was an easy life. However, it is not an impossible life.
- When you spend time with the word of God, it shows all over you. When you spend very little time with it, it shows all over you.

The Delight Of Tolerance

- In the closing verses, Paul uses a word four times: “one.”
- A congregation is not great because of its buildings, the number of people that attend, or the amount of money in the offerings, or the beautiful singing or quality preaching.
- What makes a congregation great in glorifying God is “unity.”
 - John 17:20-21 - “I do not pray for these alone, but also for those who will believe in Me through their word; 21 that they all may be one, as You, Father, are in Me, and I in You; that they also may be one in Us, that the world may believe that You sent Me.”

The Delight Of Tolerance

- Produces a unity of purpose - “likeminded.”
- If saving souls was why Jesus came to this world, then saving souls is our first and foremost work
 - Luke 19:10 - “For the Son of Man has come to seek and to save that which was lost.”
 - John 18:37 - “Pilate therefore said to Him, Are You a king then? Jesus answered, You say rightly that I am a king. For this cause I was born, and for this cause I have come into the world, that I should bear witness to the truth. Everyone who is of the truth hears My voice.”

The Delight Of Tolerance

- Produces a unity of praise
 - It is a great thing to come in here to worship, but it is equally great when we leave the assembly to serve.
- Produces a unity of practice
 - When we came to Jesus in faith and obedience, He accepted us just as we were. It must be the same way in His church.

The Delight Of Tolerance

- The invitation of our Lord... you can come to Christ if you are junior high or senior citizen, if you are skinny as a rail or round as a barrel, wearing a suit or bib overalls, long hair short hair, black, brown, blonde, or even blue hair, skin pale pink or deep brown, every level of education, every level of income, any nation, speech and custom, Democrat, Republican, Independent, Tea Party, socialist, communist, anarchist, religiously and morally adept or entirely new to spiritual matters... none of this has any bearing on the invitation.

The Delight Of Tolerance

- Do you believe? Will you obey the gospel? That's what the Lord considers.
- Would to God that all of His people limited their considerations to those two