



## UNITY IN CHRIST...OR NOT

ROMANS 15:1-13 \* OCTOBER 29, 2023

### WHY IS IT SO DIFFICULT TO DISAGREE AGREEABLY?

GENESIS 3-4; GALATIANS 5:19-21; ROMANS 1:29-31;  
EPHESIANS 4:3; ROMANS 14:19 & 15:1

It all started with Adam and Eve and went \_\_\_\_\_ from there.

No matter how well intentioned we may be, relationships naturally and inevitably \_\_\_\_\_.

### WHEN WE'RE DOING IT RIGHT

ROMANS 15:1-13

- ① We will be concerned for the \_\_\_\_\_ of both the individual and the whole within the community of believers.
- ② We will be \_\_\_\_\_ to the Word of God:

- The Word of God is entirely \_\_\_\_\_ in our current day.
- All of the Word of God is \_\_\_\_\_ on Christ.
- If used properly, the Word of God \_\_\_\_\_ hope in us.

- ③ We will bring glory to God through a \_\_\_\_\_ within the body of Christ.
- ④ The \_\_\_\_\_ of the Holy Spirit will be on display in those who are filled with His joy, peace, and hope.

### LIFE GROUP DISCUSSION:

1. Where is the line between self-concern, which can be appropriate, and selfishness?
2. Read Romans 15:1-13. How was Jesus (see verse 3) the greatest example of what Paul commands in verses 1-2? If we follow Christ's example in this and other areas of our lives, why will we need endurance, encouragement and hope (see verses 4-5)?
3. In contrast to the discord and mistreatment suggested in Romans 14, what does God desire of us (verses 5-6)? How can the fact that Christ has accepted us promote both unity and praise (verse 7)?
4. In verses 9-12, Paul quotes from four different Old Testament passages. What words and phrases express the dominant mood of these passages? Why do you think this mood is appropriate for all who hope in Jesus?
5. It can be no small challenge to listen to others when dealing with push back or disagreement on unclear issues. Though at times it's appropriate to kindly walk away, being willing to hear a different point of view is part of respecting others. How do the following proverbs help us to know how to listen to others, even when we disagree? (Proverbs 10:19; 12:15; 12:16; 17:27; 18:2)
6. Christian fellowship and biblical truth are both important sources of hope and encouragement for believers. What is the unique role of each, and why are both necessary?