Nuts and Bolts of Unity

Ken Chapman · Romans 15:1–13

INTRODUCTION

- Satan can use circumstances, whether negative or positive circumstances, Satan can use those to weaken our faith and to weaken our fellowship with one another.
- The context of our theme verse, Colossians 2, verses 6 and 7, tells us that we're to be rooted in Christ.
- The Holy Spirit said, you disagree about these things. But here's how we can maintain unity despite those differences.

1 Primary Responsibility for Unity Lies with the Strong

Romans 14:1; Galatians 6:1; 1 Thessalonians 5

- The first thing that I learn from Romans 14 and 15 is that the primary responsibility for unity lies with the strong.
- Receive one who is weak in the faith, but not to disputes over doubtful things.
- Who can best accommodate the other? Who can best help the other? It's going to be the spiritually strong.
- Brethren, if a man is overtaken in any trespass, you who are spiritual, restore such a one in a spirit of gentleness, considering yourself lest you also be tempted.
- Comfort the faint hearted. Uphold the weak, and be patient with all.
- Help the weak. But not only help them, but don't allow their weakness to be an impediment to unity.

2 The Main Hindrance to Unity Is Selfishness

1 Corinthians 14; Romans 14:15; Romans 15:2

- Another lesson that we learn from our text is the main hindrance to unity is selfishness.
- You're going to insist on your way and destroy the work of God.
- But when my main objective is to build up the body, my selfishness goes away.
- How that problem is solved largely is by how I view my brethren.
- Maybe the most impactful way that I can view this brother with whom I might otherwise have problems in unity, he says he is one for whom Christ has died.
- Let each one of us please his neighbor for his good, leading to edification.

3 The Key to Unity Is Imitating Jesus Christ

Romans 15:3; Romans 15:5; Romans 15:7

- Now we're going to see the key to unity is just imitating Jesus Christ.
- For even Christ did not please himself, but as it is written, the reproaches of those who reproach you fell on me.
- Therefore, receive one another just as Christ also received us to the glory of God.

- Instead of what would Jesus do, I might have said, what did Jesus do?
- I know what he did for me. And in that scenario, there's no denying I'm the weak one.
- All of those objections just melt away when I do what Paul said, and I consider Jesus.

> THE CHALLENGE
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> **May God help us to maintain that unity. He's told us how. It's up to us to take up the challenge and do it.**

MY NOTES