



Sermon Discussion Questions  
September 15, 2024  
*Unconformed*

## **TRANSFORMED!**

Romans 15:1-7

1. **Opening Discussion Questions:** (in a group setting you may not want to use all of these)
  - a. What is the best example of teamwork that you have ever personally witnessed? What made it particularly noteworthy?
  - b. “You deserve the best.” “Look out for number one.” “Pamper yourself.” “I’m worth it.” “Just do it.” Why do you think these slogans have become the mindset of our culture? Which one is most damaging to our society?
  - c. When is self-concern appropriate and justified, and at what point does it turn in to selfishness?
2. **Sermon Outline/Key Points**
  - a. Please Your Neighbors to Build Them Up in Christ.
    - i. If you're mature spiritually, you **MUST** bear with those weaker in the faith.
    - ii. Imitate Christ in sacrificing to bless and benefit others
  - b. Glorify God Through Supernatural Harmony.
    - i. We are called to supernatural harmony amongst believers.
    - ii. Welcome one another the way Christ welcomed you!
3. **Study/Discussion Points:**
  - a. *Sunday Afternoon*
    - i. As soon as possible after listening to the sermon set aside some time to ponder these questions prayerfully:
    - ii. What one thing most stood out to you in this sermon?
    - iii. What new truth did you learn or of what truth were you reminded?
    - iv. After listening to the sermon, is there a Scripture passage you feel led to meditate on or commit to memory this week?
    - v. What is one thing you feel God is leading you to do after hearing this message?
    - vi. Did God convict you of a need to make any changes in your life and walk with Him?
  - b. *Monday:*
    - i. Brian concludes the seven-sermon series in Romans that he started on August 4<sup>th</sup> with a message titled “Transformed!”. Begin your individual or group study this week by returning to the beginning and reading aloud the entire passage, Romans 12:1 – 15:7. Don’t be tempted to skip the “aloud” part even if you are studying alone. Reading aloud will allow you to better “hear” what Paul is saying and, perhaps, as John wrote in Revelation 1:3, receive an extra blessing.

- ii. What does Paul say in the first 3 verses that is echoed in the last 3 verses (and in the sermon title)?
  - 1. Considering just these 6 verses of the 65 in the passage what would you say Paul wants to see changed in Christians?
  - 2. What is the main, primary, overarching, single most important objective (purpose) for that change?
- iii. This week the daily studies are a little shorter, but you will find an “Exercise” added before the “Application”. Rather than just rushing through the exercise at the end of the study, spend some time each day working on a portion of it.
- c. **Tuesday:** Please Your Neighbors to Build Them Up in Christ
  - i. Read and meditate on Romans 15:1-4 and compare it to Galatians 6:2-4.
  - ii. What human problem, which we all experience to at least some degree, does Paul seem to address in verse 1 (see Philippians 2:3-4 and 19-21)?
  - iii. How does Paul identify himself as he begins this passage?
    - 1. What do you think Paul means by “strong”?
    - 2. Compare this verse with 1 Corinthians 9:19-22 and 10:31-33. What principle is at work in Paul’s life? What is his primary motivation/objective?
  - iv. The ESV says that the strong “have an obligation” while the NIV uses the term “ought to” instead. Which best conveys to you the fact that as Christians we have a moral and spiritual requirement to make the needs of others, especially the weak, a priority?
  - v. How would you define what it means to “bear” someone’s failings? Does “tolerate”, “put up with”, “have patience with”, or “help carry” best describe what Paul is saying?
- d. **Wednesday:** Please Your Neighbors to Build Them Up in Christ
  - i. Read and meditate on Romans 15:1-4 again today.
  - ii. What do you think Paul meant when he says in verse 2 that we are to “please” our neighbor? How does the addition of the qualifying statement “for his good” help frame a meaning for please?
    - 1. Ultimately, what is the most important “good” for any neighbor?
    - 2. If we “please a neighbor” by accepting and condoning an immoral lifestyle are we doing him/her good?
  - iii. In general, in the last several chapters Paul has been teaching about Christian’s relationships with one another. How does the use of the term “neighbor” expand the application?
    - 1. Refresh your memory on what Jesus taught about our “neighbor” by reading Luke 10:29-37.
    - 2. With Christ’s teaching in mind, to whom and in what areas of our life should the principle of verses 1 and 2 apply? Or put another way, who or what areas are excluded?

3. How might “Build them up” look different for our “neighbors” than it might for our “brothers and sisters in Christ”?
4. What personal attitudes might hinder or help us to bear the failing of the weak? How does Galatians 1:10 help answer this question? Read the account of Absalom’s attempt to please others with an ulterior motive in 2 Samuel 15:2-7.

*e. Thursday:*

- i. Read Romans 15:1-4 one more time and also read Psalm 69:1-18.
- ii. How was Christ the supreme example of what Paul commands in verses 1–2 (see John 4:34, 5:30, 8:29, and Mark 10:42-45)?
- iii. Paul quotes verse 9 from Psalm 69, a messianic psalm that prophesied the Messiah’s coming and describes what would happen to Him.
  1. As you read the first portion of the psalm what word picture was presented of Christ?
  2. How does that illustrate the message Paul is teaching in this part of Romans?
  3. How does the “sacrifice” we may make when giving up our freedom (to eat or drink something) to avoid hurting or hindering someone’s growth compare to the sacrifice Christ made?
  4. How would you say a person’s willingness to give up his/her rights relates to their spiritual maturity (being “strong” or “weak”)?
- iv. In verse 4 Paul provides a parenthetical explanation of the importance of scripture.
  1. What is the ultimate goal of this scripture’s instruction?
  2. Paul tells us that the scriptures provide us with hope by two different mechanisms. What are they? (Keep them in mind as we will come back to them in verse 5.)
  3. How does or should our knowledge of scripture affect our attitudes about the present and future? Why should we care about what God has done in the past?

*f. Friday: Glorify God Through Supernatural Harmony*

- i. Read and meditate on Romans 15:5-6.
- ii. What is the true source of that endurance and encouragement which Paul tells us the Scripture uses to give us hope? How does 2 Timothy 3:16 help us understand the link between scripture and the source of encouragement and endurance? What additional insight is provided by John 14:26?
- iii. Read these passages and describe how they depict the Bible encouraging us: Psalm 46:1-2, Hebrews 11, James 1:2-4 & Hebrews 12:1-2, and Romans 5:1-5.
- iv. Verses 5 and 6 are a prayer. What is Paul asking God to do?
  1. Compare Paul’s short prayer with part of Jesus’ High Priestly Prayer in John 17:20-26. How are they similar? What are both Paul and Jesus asking God to do?
  2. What is the objective of the unity both Jesus and Paul pray we would have? How does this take us back to the beginning of this sermon series (Romans 12:1)?

**g. Saturday:**

- i. Today read and meditate on Romans 15:7.
- ii. How does this verse faithfully summarize what Paul taught throughout this sermon series?
- iii. What makes this command difficult (impossible) to do on our own? Conversely, who makes it possible (see 2 Corinthians 12:9, Ephesians 3:16, Philippians 4:13, Colossians 1:9-12, 1 Timothy 1:12, and 2 Timothy 4:17)?

**4. Exercise:** Below is a partial list of some of the issues that are debated, and which sometimes divide the church. On a separate piece of paper separate them under two headings: (1) disputable matters on which Scripture is not explicit, and (2) issues on which the Bible gives clear guidance but with which some Christians or churches refuse to accept. Add additional issues to each list as you think of them. For each issue in both lists, honestly answer the following questions:

- a. How should you deal with the people you disagree with on this matter?
- b. On which issues are you a “strong” Christian, and on which are you “weak”? (Or, do these labels not apply, and why not?)
- c. Would the people you disagree with on this issue consider you “weak” and themselves “strong”?
- d. Is it important to know who is “strong” and who is “weak” when you disagree?

Issues:

food	music (worship)
dress	music (leisure)
dating	the Sabbath (Sunday)
sex	women’s roles in the church
alcohol	tithing
film/movies	abortion
creation	political involvement
remarriage	baptism and communion

**5. Application:**

- a. Pray that the Holy Spirit would give you wisdom to know on which issues God expects you to stand firm and on which His Word provides freedom for you to choose your belief. And then pray for the spiritual maturity to be willing to give up that freedom when necessary to help a “weaker” brother or sister.
- b. Pray for unity and harmony at LRBC and in the Church.

**6. Prayer Points:**

- a. Adoration – Psalms 8:1 and 29:1-2
- b. Confession – Proverbs 28:13 and 1 John 1:8-10
- c. Thanksgiving – Psalms 95:1-2 and 100:4-5
- d. Supplications –Matthew 21:22 and John 16:19