

**BOOK OF ROMANS
HARMONY IN THE CHURCH
BEING LIKEMINDED AS BELIEVERS
ROMANS 15:5-7**

I. BELIEVERS ARE TO BE LIKEMINDED IN A GODLY WAY TOWARD ONE ANOTHER! (Romans 15:5)

A. “Now the God of patience...”

PAUL is saying here that **GOD** is **PATIENT** with us! (*i.e. HE BEARS PATIENTLY with the errors and faults of HIS children!*) Aren't you glad for that?

In light of this, **GOD** is also the **ONE WHO** can **GRANT** or **GIVE** to us the **PATIENCE** that we need in order to **BEAR PATIENTLY** the **INFIRMITIES** and **ERRORS** of each other.

So, the example of **GOD** here, who **BEARS LONG** with **HIS CHILDREN**, and is **NOT SOON ANGRY** at their **OFFENCES**, is a strong argument why we, as **BELIEVERS** should **BEAR LONG WITH EACH OTHER**.

If **GOD PATIENTLY BEARS LONG** with **OUR INFIRMITIES**, **WE** ought to **BEAR LONG** with each other!

B. ...and consolation...

GOD is not only the **GOD OF PATIENCE**, but **HE** is also the **GOD OF CONSOLATION** or **COMFORT**.

2 Corinthians 7:6—“...God, that comforteth those that are cast down...”

GOD is the **ONE WHO GIVES** or **IMPARTS CONSOLATION** to us, and accordingly, **GIVES US THE ABILITY** to be a **CONSOLATION** to others. (*See 2 Corinthians 1:3-5*)

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C. “...grant you to be likeminded one toward another...”

That word “*likeminded*” means “*to think the same thing*” that is, we are each to have **GOD’S PATIENCE** and **CONSOLATION** one toward another.

D. “...according to Christ Jesus.”

1) According to the **EXAMPLE** and **SPIRIT OF CHRIST!** (*John 14:16; Galatians 5:22-23*) **CHRIST’S SPIRIT**, was and is a **SPIRIT OF... Love...seeking the highest good for others!**
Joy...our JOY is in the LORD!
Peace...HE purchased our peace
Longsuffering...forbearing
Gentleness...exhibiting kindness
Goodness... GOD is good all the time.
Faith...trusting GOD and HIS WORD
Meekness...humility
Temperance...self-control

2) According to what **CHRIST** has **COMMANDED** and **REQUIRES**.
If every **BELIEVER** would imitate the **EXAMPLE OF CHRIST**, and **FOLLOW HIS INSTRUCTIONS**, there would be **NO CONTENTIONS** in the **CHURCH!**

3) According To what **CHRIST PRAYED** to **HIS HEAVENLY FATHER!** (*John 17:21-23*) **HE PRAYED** for **OUR UNITY** and **PEACE!**

So, BELIEVERS ARE TO BE LIKEMINDED IN A GODLY WAY TOWARD ONE ANOTHER!

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II. OUR BEING LIKEMINDED TOWARD ONE ANOTHER IS NEEDED TO PROPERLY GLORIFY GOD! (Romans 15:6)

A. “That ye may with one mind...”

The word used here is also translated as *“with one accord”*:
Acts 1:14—“These all continued with one accord in prayer and supplication, with the women, and Mary the mother of Jesus, and with his brethren.”

Acts 2:1—“And when the day of Pentecost was fully come, they were all with one accord in one place.”

Acts 4:24—“And when they heard that, they lifted up their voice to God with one accord, and said, Lord, thou art God, which hast made heaven, and earth, and the sea, and all that in them is:

It means *“unitedly, with one purpose, without contentions, and strifes.”*

B. “...and one mouth...”

This refers, doubtless, to their **PRAISES** and **PRAYERS**. That they might **JOIN TOGETHER WITHOUT CONTENTION** or **UNKIND FEELING**, in the **WORSHIP OF GOD!** (*e.g. Heaven Cf. Revelation 5:11ff*)

Listen to me, **DIVISIONS, STRIFE, and CONTENTION IN THE CHURCH PREVENT UNION AND UNITY IN WORSHIP!**

Though the **CHURCH BODY** may be assembled together in one place and **PROFESS** to be engaged in **PUBLIC WORSHIP**, yet it is a **DIVIDED ASSEMBLY**, understand that is **not GOD-honoring** when there are **DIVISIONS, STRIFE, and CONTENTION** present!

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And, as **STRIFE and CONTENTION** are not **DEALT WITH**, it affects **PRAYERS BEING OFFERED!**

In fact in *Isaiah 59:1-2*, the **LORD** called out **ISRAEL** for such as this: *Isaiah 59:1-2—“1 Behold, the LORD’s hand is not shortened, that it cannot save; Neither his ear heavy, that it cannot hear: 2 But your iniquities have separated between you and your God, And your sins have hid his face from you, that he will not hear.”*

C. “...Glorify God even the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ.”

Our goal as **BELIEVERS** should be to **GLORIFY GOD** in **ALL** that we **SAY** and **DO!**

1 Corinthians 10:31—“Whether therefore ye eat, or drink, or whatsoever ye do, do all to the glory of God.”

That is a general rule, sufficient to regulate every man’s conscience and practice,—that whether they eat, or drink, or whatsoever they do, to do it all with the aim to bring glory to God—That is done by considering **HIS PRECEPTS**, and the **PROPRIETY, EXPEDIENCY, APPEARANCE, and TENDENCY** of our **ACTIONS!**

Is what we’re doing bringing any PRAISE and HONOR to GOD?

The **FATHER OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST** is also our **HEAVENLY FATHER!** A father wants **UNION** and **PEACE** in the family. **HIS** name is at stake!

Our **COMMON HEAVENLY FATHER** has commanded us to be **UNITED**, and **TO LOVE ONE ANOTHER**. And our **DESIRE** should be to **HONOR** such a **FATHER!** We should therefore lay aside **CONTENTIONS**, and be **UNITED** in the bonds of **LOVE!**

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III. SO THIS MEANS WE ARE TO RECEIVE ONE ANOTHER AS CHRIST ALSO RECEIVED US TO THE GLORY OF

GOD! (*Romans 15:7*)

A. “Wherefore...”

In view of all the considerations which have been presented here, that should **tend to produce unity and love**. He refers to the various arguments in this and the preceding chapter.

B. “...receive ye one another...”

Acknowledge one another as fellow **BELIEVERS**, and treat one another as **BRETHREN**, though we may differ in opinion about many smaller matters; see *Romans 14:3*.

C. “...as Christ also received us...”

That is, **HE** received us as his friends and followers.

D. “...to the glory of God.”

In order to **PROMOTE GOD’S GLORY. CHRIST** has **REDEEMED** us, and **RENEWED** us, in order to **PROMOTE THE GLORY OF GOD!**

Ephesians 1:6—“To the praise of the glory of His grace, wherein He hath made us accepted in the beloved.”

As **CHRIST** has received us in order to **PROMOTE THE GLORY OF GOD**, so ought we to treat each other in a similar manner for a similar purpose.

Now, the exhortation in this verse is to those who had been **DIVIDED** on various points pertaining to **rites** and **CEREMONIES**; to those who had been **CONVERTED** from among the **GENTILES** and others who had been **CONVERTED** from among the **JEWS**; and the **APOSTLE** here says that **CHRIST** had received **US**—which includes **BOTH!**

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In order to show this, and especially to show the **JEWISH CONVERTS** that they ought to **RECEIVE** and **ACKNOWLEDGE** their **GENTILE BRETHREN**, he proceeds to show, in the verses that follow, that **CHRIST** had reference to **BOTH JEW and GENTILE** in **HIS WORK!**

He shows this in reference to the **JEWS** in *Romans 15:8*, and to the **GENTILES** in *Romans 15:9-12*. And he draws all his arguments from the **WORK OF CHRIST**.

Which, LORD willing, we will see next week!

Conclusion

BELIEVERS ARE TO BE LIKEMINDED IN A GODLY WAY TOWARD ONE ANOTHER!

OUR BEING LIKEMINDED TOWARD ONE ANOTHER IS NEEDED TO PROPERLY GLORIFY GOD!

SO THIS MEANS WE ARE TO RECEIVE ONE ANOTHER AS CHRIST ALSO RECEIVED US TO THE GLORY OF GOD!