

“Maturity Makes a Burden a Blessing” NOT ASHAMED SERIES

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Romans 15:1-6

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I. Lift the Weak

Romans 15:1-2 We then that are strong ought to bear the infirmities of the weak, and not to please ourselves. ² Let every one of us please *his* neighbour for *his* good to edification.

Galatians 6:1 Brethren, if a man be overtaken in a fault, ye which are spiritual, restore such an one in the spirit of meekness; considering thyself, lest thou also be tempted.

1. A mature Christian is willing to carry the younger Christians.

2. A mature Christian is not selfish.

3. A mature Christian does not think of the weak as burdens, but blessings.

4. A mature Christian knows that no sacrifice we could make would ever match Calvary.

II. Bear the Reproach

Romans 15:3-4 For even Christ pleased not himself; but, as it is written, The reproaches of them that reproached thee fell on me. ⁴ For whatsoever things were written aforetime were written for our learning, that we through patience and comfort of the scriptures might have hope.

Psalms 69:9 For the zeal of thine house hath eaten me up; and the reproaches of them that reproached thee are fallen upon me.

III. Mind the Mouth

Romans 15:5-6 Now the God of patience and consolation grant you to be likeminded one toward another according to Christ Jesus: ⁶ That ye may with one mind *and* one mouth glorify God, even the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Genesis 13:8 And Abram said unto Lot, Let there be no strife, I pray thee, between me and thee, and between my herdmen and thy

John 17:21 That they all may be one; as thou, Father, *art* in me, and I in thee, that they also may be one in us: that the world may believe that thou hast sent me.

Nahum 1:3 The Lord is slow to anger, and great in power, and will not at all acquit the wicked: the Lord hath his way in the whirlwind and in the storm, and the clouds are the dust of his feet.

Magnificent Manifestations of God's Patience:

1. When **our first parents** sinned, patience held them in existence and pointed them to that Messiah who would repair the ruins of the fall.

2. When the **old world had corrupted** its way before God, for 120 years He allowed its sinfulness and His messenger to warn them.

3. When the **Canaanites** indulged in every abomination, He delayed for four hundred years to inflict on them the punishments they deserved.

4. When the **Gentile** nations, instead of adoring the God of heaven, had displayed their vilest passions and the grossest sins, the Lord “left not Himself without witness”

5. When the **Israelites**, notwithstanding His numberless miracles and amazing mercies, rebelled against Him, did He not bear with them?

1 Cor. 6:20 For ye are bought with a price: therefore glorify God in your body, and in your spirit, which are God's.

2 Thes. 1:12 That the name of our Lord Jesus Christ may be glorified in you, and ye in him, according to the grace of our God and the Lord Jesus Christ.