

The Nature of Christian Ministry

Romans 15:14-33

Scripture

Romans 15:14 I myself am satisfied about you, my brothers, that you yourselves are full of goodness, filled with all knowledge and able to instruct one another. ¹⁵ But on some points I have written to you very boldly by way of reminder, because of the grace given me by God

Scripture

¹⁶ to be a minister of Christ Jesus to the Gentiles in the priestly service of the gospel of God, so that the offering of the Gentiles may be acceptable, sanctified by the Holy Spirit. ¹⁷ In Christ Jesus, then, I have reason to be proud of my work for God.

Scripture

¹⁸ For I will not venture to speak of anything except what Christ has accomplished through me to bring the Gentiles to obedience-- by word and deed, ¹⁹ by the power of signs and wonders, by the power of the Spirit of God-- so that from Jerusalem and all the way around to Illyricum I have

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fulfilled the ministry of the gospel of Christ; ²⁰ and thus I make it my ambition to preach the gospel, not where Christ has already been named, lest I build on someone else's foundation, ²¹ but as it is written, "Those who have never been told of him will see, and those who have never heard will understand."

Scripture

²² This is the reason why I have so often been hindered from coming to you. ²³ But now, since I no longer have any room for work in these regions, and since I have longed for many years to come to you, ²⁴ I hope to see you in passing as I go to Spain, and to be helped on my journey there by you,

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once I have enjoyed your company for a while. At present, however, I am going to Jerusalem bringing aid to the saints. ²⁶ For Macedonia and Achaia have been pleased to make some contribution for the poor among the saints at Jerusalem.

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²⁷ For they were pleased to do it, and indeed they owe it to them. For if the Gentiles have come to share in their spiritual blessings, they ought also to be of service to them in material blessings. ²⁸ When therefore I have completed this and have delivered to them what has been collected, I will leave for Spain by way of you.

Scripture

²⁹ I know that when I come to you I will come in the fullness of the blessing of Christ. ³⁰ I appeal to you, brothers, by our Lord Jesus Christ and by the love of the Spirit, to strive together with me in your prayers to God on my behalf,

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³¹ that I may be delivered from the unbelievers in Judea, and that my service for Jerusalem may be acceptable to the saints, ³² so that by God's will I may come to you with joy and be refreshed in your company. ³³ May the God of peace be with you all. Amen.

Exposition

- **Our ministry to others is to be marked by grace (15:14-15)**
 - **First, an attitude of graciousness toward others. (v. 14)**
- ¹⁴ I myself am satisfied about you, my brothers, that you yourselves are full of goodness, filled with all knowledge and able to instruct one another.

Exposition

–**Second, by an awareness of our receiving grace from God (15)**

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Exposition

- **Our message is to be centered in the gospel (15:16)**

- **Ministry to others is a priestly function (16a)**

¹⁶ to be a minister of Christ Jesus to the Gentiles in the priestly service of the gospel of God,

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– **The fruit of our ministry must be sanctified by the Holy Spirit to be acceptable to God (16b)**

“so that the offering of the Gentiles may be acceptable, sanctified by the Holy Spirit.”

– **Sanctified** – separated from sin, claimed by God as holy people.

Exposition

- **The fruit of our ministry is due to Christ's gracious working through us by the power of the Spirit (15:17-19)**

¹⁷ In Christ Jesus, then, I have reason to be proud of my work for God.

^{NLT} **Romans 15:17** So I have reason to be enthusiastic about all Christ Jesus has done through me in my service to God.

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fulfilled the ministry of the gospel of Christ;

- **The focus of our ministry is to be guided by God's will for us. (15:20-21)**

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- **We must be faithful to the ministry to which God has called us and not be side-tracked by other opportunities or needs until God releases us to do other ministry.
(15:22-28)**

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- **In our ministry we must keep the fullness of God's Spirit in our lives (15:29)**

²⁹ I know that when I come to you I will come in the fullness of the blessing of Christ.

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- **The prayers of other Christians for us is important for the success of God's work through us. (15:30-33)**

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