

ROMANS 58 – 15:1-7

Bearing Infirmities of the Weak

1. 15:1

- a. *"we that are strong"* – strong in grace doctrine, the mind of Christ – 1 Cor 2:15
- b. Strength is not carnality, selfishness, strife, but an ability to bear – Gal 6:1-3
- c. Instead of stumbling blocks, we need to be building blocks – 1 Cor 12:24-25
- d. *"infirmities"* – Ignorance, immaturity, misunderstanding is unhealthy
- e. We do not cut off the weak part (we are not a tree), we must give it due care
- f. The weak parts of the body are handicapped doctrinally, and need attention
- g. We are the doctor, healer, comforter; not the enabler, compromiser, or judge
- h. The weak are not unsaved people, but are saved who are weak in the faith
- i. The bearing is not ignoring sin, letting people walk in sin, or enabling sin

2. 15:2

- a. *"not to please ourselves"* - This is called ministry; liberty gives us the opportunity
- b. Pleasing ourselves is natural; helping others is unnatural; edification is godly
- c. *"please his neighbour"* – Does not replace God as our final authority – Gal 1:10
- d. Neither is this creating hypocritical men pleasers, but true servants – Eph 6:6
- e. *"The true test of a man's character is what he does when no one is watching"*
- f. *"for his good..."* – the weak, children, young do not know what is for their good
- g. Providing a comfortable environment to grow; not pamper or acquiesce to error
- h. This environment is where you and the weak are at peace, but truth is taught
- i. *"to edification"* - This excludes ministries in bars, Catholic cathedrals, Muslim synagogues, Baptist churches, etc.
- j. The weak are weak in their complete position in Christ; we should be affirming their position in Christ, and encouraging their growth with right doctrine.

3. 15:3-4

- a. Rom 15:3 is quoting Psa 69:9 and alluding to verses like John 6:38
- b. Christ is the example of bearing another's burden in charity not tolerance
- c. Paul says be followers of him in this example – 1 Cor 11:1... 1 Cor 10:33
- d. The following is in maturity, charity, the mind of Christ – Phil 2:20-21, 2:5+
- e. Paul uses Christ as an example regarding Corinthian meals – 1 Cor 11:20-26

4. 15:5-7

- a. Patience (needed by the strong) and consolation (needed by the weak)
- b. *"to be likeminded"* – same mind and judgment which is doctrinal - 1 Cor 1:9-11
- c. Not ecumenism or evangelicalism which dilutes or ignores doctrine
- d. *"one mind"* – the unity of the faith means there is one – Eph 4:3-6
- e. *"one mouth"* – that does not judge, despise, but edifies – Eph 4:29, 2Tim 2:14
- f. *"as Christ also received us"* – We were weak also, and saved by grace – Rom 5:6