

# **MOOREBANK – HAMMONDVILLE ANGLICAN CHURCHES**

SERMON OUTLINE –25 June 2017

Romans 15:1-13 ~ Bearing with and building up

**Words to know: Unhelpful and inappropriate...**

## **1. Bear with and build up your fellow believers ~ 15:1-7**

Assessing differences – a three tiered approach

- i. Things **ESSENTIAL** to the faith – eg Trinity, salvation by grace through faith
- ii. Things **IMPORTANT** to the faith – eg baptism, church government, gender roles
- iii. Things we have freedom to differ on – eg carpet colours, music styles, etc

## **2. Remember what God is doing in the world ~ 15:8-12**

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**QUESTIONS FOR DISCUSSION OR REFLECTION**  
**Romans 15:1-13**

1. The 'strong' are those who see they are free from keeping the Old Testament law (14:14,20). What is their obligation? How does this fit with Romans 13:8-10?
2. Who is our example in this sort of behaviour in v3? In what ways do we see that Jesus didn't insist on his own rights or status as excusing him from service?
3. Paul quotes Psalm 69:9 as the words of the Messiah. Where do we see this in Jesus life? How does Jesus example encourage us to be self giving and not people who retaliate? Why might we need this reminder in dealing with the 'strong' and the 'weak' within the church family?
4. What do the Scripture do for us (v4)? What do they teach? What do they provide? What is the goal?
5. What does Paul pray for the Christians in v5-6? Unity does not mean uniformity – Rather Paul is praying for the same 'attitude of mind toward each that Christ Jesus had' (v5). From v6, what are two indicators of this mindset?
6. What is the purpose of unity? Can unity be achieved at too high a price?
7. 'Therefore, accept one another, just as Christ accepted you, in order to bring praise to God' (v7 – see also 14:1). Quickly scan the following passages – 12:5, 10, 16; 13:10; 14:13, 19; 15:5,7 and review what believers must do for 'one another'? What is the outcome of this in 15:7?
8. Read 15:7-12. How is the 'big story' of what God is doing in the world, intended to influence behaviour between believers? The Messiah has accepted Jews and Gentiles as his servants – what are Jews and Gentiles to do in response?
9. Read Paul's prayer in Romans 15:13. What does Hope do for us? (You may like to look at Hope in: 5:5 (expectation of glory); 8:24 (confidence of future salvation); 8:20 & 12:12 (anchor in the midst of futility and affliction); 14:17 and 15:13 (indicated by joy and peace by the Holy Spirit).
10. Australian scholar and author Michael Bird lists a number of helpful principles for loving brothers and sisters in the Christian family in the midst of disagreement over 'disputable matters'. Choose one to discuss:
  - a. Learn to differentiate between areas of conviction and areas of command
  - b. Don't major on Minor doctrines or minor on Major doctrines
  - c. Exercise your convictions to build others up, not to tear them down
  - d. In all times act in love and carry each others burdens