

## *With One Heart and Mouth*

### *Romans 15:6-13*

*“God could have annihilated Satan at once, blotting out the evil. But if he had done that, he would only have shown that he was more powerful than Satan, not that his way was best or that he could restore harmony even out of chaos. So instead of destroying Satan, God let evil run its course. The devil was allowed to work havoc, doing his best to ruin God’s creation. He was even allowed to enter the brave new world that God created, drawing Adam and Eve, our first parents, after him in his rebellion against God. But all the devil was able to show was that he could increase the world’s disharmony, not make the universe run smoothly or make people better able to accept and love one another. He could turn paradise, the Garden of Eden, into hell (by God’s permission), but he could not turn that hell back into paradise.*

*But God was not finished. Unknown to Satan, God had planned to redeem a select number of people out of the great mass of fallen humanity that the devil was corrupting. So he did it, sending Jesus Christ to die for them to be their Savior from sin and sending the Holy Spirit to give them a new nature. And thus, these weak, fallen human beings became the arena where God demonstrated his ability to bring his people together again, as they were moved to accept each other in Christ because they had been accepted. Thus they glorified God, and God confounded Satan.” Boice*

- I. A strong biblical principle comes forth from Paul’s prayer for the church. His concern is that we, as the children of God, are a people who are unified so that we sincerely glorify Him with our hearts and mouths. Our corporate responsibility is to keep the unity of the Spirit by knowing and living the truth of the Word, so that the body of Christ may be built up as the world falls apart around us. We must keep ourselves from falling apart with them!

Rom. 15:5-6

John 17:20-23

Eph. 4:3-6

Eph. 4:12-15

**Col. 3:12-14** *Therefore, as God’s chosen people, holy and dearly loved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience. Bear with each other and forgive one another if any of you has a grievance against someone. Forgive as the Lord forgave you. And over all these virtues put on love, which binds them all together in perfect unity.*

- II. Accepting one another despite our many differences is an essential part of having one heart and mouth that glorifies God. Our acceptance by God is based on our acceptance of Jesus Christ as our Lord and Savior. Therefore, our acceptance of one another is essential if we expect to live in ways that glorify the one who saved us from impending spiritual death. To not accept those who belong to the family of God, shows a fundamental lack of understanding of the power of God's grace and mercy toward undeserving sinners.

Rom. 15:7-12

Eph. 2:11-13

Ps. 18:49

Deut. 32:43

Ps. 117:1

Isa. 11:10

**Rom. 8:24-25** *For in this hope we were saved. But hope that is seen is not hope at all. Who hopes for what he already has? But if we hope for what we do not have, we wait for it patiently (hypomonē – steadfast endurance).*

- III. Our willingness to accept one another in Christ stems from the strength of our relationship with Jesus. The nearer we draw to him, the more we will be filled the joy, peace and hope that God desires to overflow into the hearts and lives of those whom he brings into our lives.

Rom. 15:12

*“So, good believer, what are you doing with the grace you have been given? Are you allowing it to change you within? Are you allowing GOD’s grace to fill you with joy and peace so that others can share in your confident assurance? Are you a foreshadowing of God’s coming righteousness? Swindoll*