



“Mature Expectations”

Putting Others First

Romans 15:1-6

First word in passage = ought (pres. tense, emphasizing continuing obligation; its first position in the sentence underscores its importance) = a moral obligation

As Hodge remarks, what is called for here is not "a weak compliance with the wishes of others" (in loc.). It is rather a determined adjustment to whatever will contribute to the spiritual good of the other person.

Last 4 Words = Lord Our Jesus Christ = who we owe all to

Mature believers are active in : *Undertaking, Understanding, Unity*

I. Undertaking – “We then that are strong ought” (vs 1-2)

We accept their obligation to :

A. Bear – “bear the infirmities ”

To take up with ones hands, To put upon one’s self

the apostle enjoined the Galatian believers to "carry [bear] each other's burdens, and in this way ... fulfill the law of Christ" (Gal 6:2).

The strong carry the weak. That is God's plan. At different times, different ones of us are strong as others are weak. Then the roles may be reversed. We are to carefully look for the ones who have needs and seek to help meet those needs. We must seek to live in such a way that Christ is honored in us and then share what we receive from Him with those around us. We are to be a community of faith and encouragement.

B. Benefit – “please his neighbor for his good”

To please for the purpose of promoting what is their absolute good.

C. Build – “to edification”

Building leads to visible results and blessing to many especially those in close proximity.

II. Understanding – “for our learning” (vs 3-4)

The use of the Scriptures promotes "endurance" and supplies "encouragement." Both may be learned by precept and example from these records of the past. These two elements are intimately connected with hope, for the endurance is worthwhile if it takes place on a course that leads to a glorious future, and the encouragement provides exactly that assurance.

We study to become :

A. Hardy – “through patience”

endurance (hypomonēs, “steadfastness in the face of adversities”)

Job

Joseph

James

B. Helpful – “*comfort of the Scriptures*”

Genesis
Proverbs
Barnabas

C. Hopeful – “*might have hope*”

hope (pres. tense, “keep on having hope”; cf. Rom. 5:3-5).

Jonah
Daniel
Isaiah

III. Unity – “likeminded one toward another ” (vs 5-6)

We agree on :

A. Values - “*one mind* ”(*Inward*) **personally apply the Word of God**

II Timothy 3:16-17 – “are profitable” --- Do we believe this? If so we are not alone and we can continue to invest together

B. Verbiage – “*one mouth*” (*Outward*) **publically proclaim the Word of God**

The Spoken Word is powerful. It is what Romans 10 is really saying, “Faith comes by hearing, hearing by the spoken Word of God.”

Do we make the Word of God our Language and common speech? If not , why not?

> It is the Word, the spoken Word of God, that does the Work!

C. Victory – “*That ye may...glorify God*” **purposefully praise the Works of God**

What is the Goal of your life? A life will be spent very quickly. How do you describe success? Mature believers are unified on the definition of success as ... “ Enabling others to raise their view of God”

The centripetal magnetism of the Lord can effectively counter the centrifugal force of individual judgment and opinion.

Do you desire to be mature in Christ? Do you believe you have some maturity in Christ? You can take a gander at your maturity level by evaluating how often you bear the infirmities of those around you as opposed to how often you seek to please yourself.