

Read Romans 15

The prior chapter talked about the importance of becoming the best platform for the gospel that we can. This means that sometimes it's the best course to not just do what I feel like. What does my neighbor need? That selflessness also brings unity in the body Christ, through the Holy Spirit. It puts a whole new meaning to teamwork. It can be helpful to see the body of Christ more like an interdependent organism than a collection of individually minded people.

Jesus exemplified this idea, by taking our sins on himself. His status was put as secondary in order to raise ours. This is a perfect segway to the Jewish believers to accept the Gentiles. The Gentiles are included in this big family of believers. Our ways may be offensive to orthodox Jews.

⁴⁴ While Peter was still speaking these words, the Holy Spirit fell upon all those who heard the word. ⁴⁵ And those of the circumcision who believed were astonished, as many as came with Peter, because the gift of the Holy Spirit had been poured out on the Gentiles also. ⁴⁶ For they heard them speak with tongues and magnify God. Then Peter answered, ⁴⁷ "Can anyone forbid water, that these should not be baptized who have received the Holy Spirit just as we have?" ⁴⁸ And he commanded them to be baptized in the name of the Lord. Then they asked him to stay a few days. (Acts 10)

Paul goes on to exemplify how the Gentile wealth and the Hebrew scriptural richness make for perfect partners. The Jews need money to survive after their setbacks. The Gentiles are starving for scripture. I have noticed that when I get involved with a church with a completely different background that I come away enthused by the fusion.