

Praying the Powerful Prayers of Paul

Romans 15:5-6

A Prayer to be Likeminded

Overview of the Prayer

- Once again there are some things that Paul wants God the Father to grant or give unto the Romans:
 - likeminded one toward another according to Christ Jesus
 - with one mind and one mouth glorify God, even the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ.
- Notice that Paul begins this prayer by identifying two of God's attributes specifically his patience and consolation.
- Consolation—means to comfort, alleviation of misery or distress of mind, refreshment of mind or spirits, a comparative degree of happiness in distress of misfortune.
 - Romans 15:4—comfort
 - II Corinthians 1:3-5—the God of all comfort

Overview of the Prayer

- The main focus of this prayer is for the Romans and therefore us to be likeminded. The one mind and one mouth in verse six clearly stems from the likemindedness in verse five.

Historical Background on the Church at Rome

- Romans 14—contains a couple of examples of the divisions over issues that existed within the Roman church.
 - Romans 14:1-4—meats
 - Romans 14:5-6—esteeming one day as better than another
- Romans 14:14-15, 17, 19—the ultimate question ought to be does it edify. If it does not edify it should not be practiced.
- Romans 15:1-2—the first thing that we need to understand about being likeminded is that we are going to have to put aside some of our own desires and wishes for the sake of our fellow saints.

What About Grace Life Bible Church?

- Galatians 3:28—in the Body of Christ all of the things that divide mankind are done away in Jesus Christ. All racial, gender, and socio-economic distinctions no longer exist or matter in the Body of Christ.
- What are some fleshly differences that potentially threaten our unity and ability to be likeminded?
- Multicultural Church
- Age Diverse Church
- Economic Diversity
- Political Diversity
- The key to unity is not disagreeing less, or even agreeing more, rather the key to unity is each of us knowing who we are in Christ and acting in accordance with that.

Romans 15:5-6

- Likeminded—means to be of the same mind i.e. agreed together, cherish the same views, be harmonious.
 - Romans 12:16
- Notice that the likemindedness is going to be “according to” or in line with Jesus Christ.
- I Corinthians 1:10—this is not accomplished by each person asserting their own will but rather by doing what Paul said in Romans doing those things which make for peace so that the saints might be edified.
- I Corinthians 2:16—here is the key to likemindedness and unity in an assembly. When all of the saints function with the mind of Christ.
- When we all value and esteem the same things that Christ values and esteems there is no place for disunity.

Romans 15:5-6

- Romans 15:6—this one mind can only be the mind of Christ at work within the saints.
- Notice how the one mind leads to one mouth where we all speak the same thing. Once again we cannot accomplish this unity of mind and speech on our own it must come from the mind of Christ at work within in us.
- Philippians 1:27
- Philippians 2:1-4—what was Paul's joy? For the saints to be likeminded having the same love.
 - One accord—agreement, harmony of minds, consent or concurrence of opinions or wills.
- Philippians 2:3-4—the mind of Christ places the needs and concerns of others above our own and esteems others as better than oneself.

Romans 15:5-6

- Philippians 2:5-8—Jesus Christ esteemed others as better than himself when he left the fathers presence so that he could die for our sins.
- Most of the divisions that come into a church steam from a lack of humility.
- Avoiding church is not the answer. It is in the local church that we have the opportunity to function with the mind of Christ as we strive together for the faith of the gospel.
- Philippians 2:19-21—what does it mean to be likeminded? To seek the things which are Jesus Christ's and not our own.
- Philippians 3:13-16

Romans 15:5-6

- Philippians 3:19—so much of the stuff we let divide us comes from minding earthly things. They very things Paul tells us the enemies of the cross of Christ mind.
- Philippians 3:20-21—our conversation is in heaven these are the things we should be minding.
- Colossians 3:2—when the mind of Christ is working in us our affections will be set upon heavenly things rather than earthly things. These are the things that really matter.