



Sermon Discussion Guide

April 19, 2026 | Romans 15:1-13 | Jim Kramer

SUMMARY

Big Idea: **The Gospel Forms a Self-Denying, Others-Focused, Unified People Who Welcome One Another and Overflow with Hope for the Glory of God**

Our passage shows that the gospel of Jesus creates a unified people, by liberating us from a self-serving disposition and to willingly, lovingly lay down our freedoms in order to build other up. The gospel is our fuel and Christ is our model, the image of God that we are being conformed into. Through the Scriptures, God shapes us with endurance, encouragement, unity and hope. This unity is part of His redemptive plan to bring Jew and Gentile together as one people who glorify Him with one voice. Because God has welcomed us in Christ, we now welcome one another, and by the Spirit we grow in joy, peace, and hope - all for the glory of God.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

Read Romans 15:1-13

Head & Heart

1. What is Paul's main point in these verses?
 - a. How do you know? (Note the imperatives in v1-2 & 7)
2. What does it mean to "welcome" the way Paul has in mind?
 - a. How has Christ welcomed you in the gospel? How often do you reflect on this?
3. How does the "welcome" of verse 7 relate to verses 1-2?
 - a. In other words, how does the call to welcome others in this way relate to how we understand and use our freedoms on tertiary matters?
4. In verses 8-13 Paul quotes from the Old Testament (Law, Prophets, Writings). How do these passages relate to and support his main point?

Hands (Apply)

5. When you think of the freedoms God has given you through the gospel, do you view them primarily as opportunities to serve yourself or a means to serve others?
6. Pursuing unity in the church involves proactively and selflessly seeking out ways to build up others. What does this look like practically for you?
 - a. When is this relatively easy to do? When is this difficult for you?
 - b. When are you tempted to equate unity with merely tolerating-at-a-distance?
7. Even with differing opinions on open-handed matters, Paul's prayer is that we, together, glorify God with "one voice." What would it take for this to happen in the church as a whole? In your life group? In your family?
 - a. What does pursuing unity in those spheres mean for you this week?