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## Romans: Theology 101

"Christlike Relationships"

Romans 15:1-13

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06-21-20

Introduction: As we come to Romans 15, Paul is wrapping up his focus on how the body of Christ can maintain unity despite the tremendous diversity that exists within the body.

1. Paul's answer to resolving conflict was learning to accept each other.
2. Last week we learned our ability to accept one another increases as we better understand each other.
3. As we turn to chapter 15 & Paul closes this section, he introduces another guide that leads to greater acceptance.
4. Paul calls the Romans to be Christlike.
5. The more we relate to others in Christlike ways, we are better able to overcome our differences, maintain unity & fulfill the purpose of the church.
6. Question: What does it mean to be Christlike in our relationships?
7. Paul will focus on two principles Christ modeled in His relationships.

### I. We Are to Live Selflessly

#### A. Defining the Goal

#### B. The Model: Jesus

#### C. The Outcome: Oneness

### II. We Are to Be Servants

#### A. The Goal: Acceptance

#### B. The Model: Jesus

#### C. The Outcome: A Healthy Body

Conclusion: In this text Paul cuts to the core issue.

1. The biggest obstacle to unity is self.
2. The greater the sense of self, the greater the chance of conflict & division.
3. That's why Paul calls us to Christlikeness.
4. It's a call to self-denial, taking up the cross & following Christ.
5. The more we display the selflessness & servant mindset of Christ ... the more our relationships will flourish ... that glorifies God & is attractive to others!