

The Challenge of NEXT

Romans 15:1-4 Now we who are strong ought to bear the weaknesses of those without strength and not *just* please ourselves. 2 Each of us is to please his neighbor for his good, to his edification. 3 For even Christ did not please Himself; but as it is written, "THE REPROACHES OF THOSE WHO REPROACHED YOU FELL ON ME." 4 For whatever was written in earlier times was written for our instruction, so that through perseverance and the encouragement of the Scriptures we might have hope.

Romans 14:7-8 For not one of us lives for himself, and not one dies for himself; for if we live, we live for the Lord, or if we die, we die for the Lord; therefore whether we live or die, we are the Lord's.

1. We are commissioned to _____ to those who are weak.

Romans 15:1-4 Now we who are strong ought to bear the weaknesses of those without strength and not *just* please ourselves.

- We exist to make families strong and people whole through making disciples of Jesus Christ.
- **Those who are at different levels of _____.**
 - Romans 14:1-2 Now accept the one who is weak in faith, *but* not for *the purpose of* passing judgment on his opinions. 2 One person has faith that he may eat all things, but he who is weak eats vegetables *only*.
- **Those who are _____.**
 - Luke 7:36-50

Colossians 4:5-6 Conduct yourselves with wisdom toward outsiders, making the most of the opportunity. 6 Let your speech always be with grace, *as though* seasoned with salt, so that you will know how you should respond to each person.

- **Those who are in _____.**

Luke 4:16-21 And He came to Nazareth, where He had been brought up; and as was His custom, He entered the synagogue on the Sabbath, and stood up to read. 17 And the book of the prophet Isaiah was handed to Him. And He opened the book and found the place where it was written, 18 "THE SPIRIT OF THE LORD IS UPON ME, BECAUSE HE ANOINTED ME TO PREACH THE GOSPEL TO THE POOR. HE HAS SENT ME TO PROCLAIM RELEASE TO THE CAPTIVES, AND RECOVERY OF SIGHT TO THE BLIND, TO SET FREE THOSE WHO ARE OPPRESSED, 19 TO PROCLAIM THE FAVORABLE YEAR OF THE LORD." 20 And He closed the book, gave it back to the attendant and sat down; and the eyes of all in the synagogue were fixed on Him. 21 And He began to say to them, "Today this Scripture has been fulfilled in your hearing."

2. We are admonished to _____ others in their faith.

Romans 15:2-3 Each of us is to please his neighbor for his good, to his edification. 3 For even Christ did not please Himself; but as it is written, "THE REPROACHES OF THOSE WHO REPROACHED YOU FELL ON ME."

- Edify means to instruct and improve especially in moral and religious knowledge – build up.
- Don't just please yourself, but please your neighbors for their good.
- What does that mean?
- Please them for the purpose of building them up.
- Our goal is to be _____!
- What's a nice thing you'd like someone to say at your funeral?

- How do you build others up?
- 1 Thessalonians 5:11 Therefore encourage one another and build up one another, just as you also are doing.

3. We are encouraged to dive into the _____.

Romans 15:4 For whatever was written in earlier times was written for our instruction, so that through perseverance and the encouragement of the Scriptures we might have hope.

- This Bible was written to instruct us to stand strong and persevere, and as we're following God's Word, dealing with whatever challenges life brings our way, we have hope.
- Hope! An essential ingredient of life.

Hebrews 4:12 For the word of God is living and active and sharper than any two-edged sword, and piercing as far as the division of soul and spirit, of both joints and marrow, and able to judge the thoughts and intentions of the heart.

- 1) Live in reverse: What is something nice you'd like someone to say at your funeral? What will you do now so your life will reflect that thought in the years to come?
- 2) What steps will you take to reach out to others and build others up?
- 3) What can you do to be encouraged by God's Word and to use it to encourage others?