

SERMON DISCUSSION STARTERS

- ☀ According to (Rom. 15:1-3), how can the example of Christ inspire you to continue to have sacrificial, self-denying love for others? In their casual personal interactions, how could you continually bear the weight of deference? What might that look like?
- ☀ Now think of an area where you would be considered “strong” or more broad in the application of your faith compared to others. How can Christ’s example specifically help you love others? Fill in the blank from the lesson of (v. 3). If I am going to endure in sacrificial, self-denying love for others, I cannot live to _____ myself.
- ☀ Do you pray for God to supernaturally unify your heart with those people who differ from you in the non-essentials? Do you pray or do you gossip? Do you pray or do you slander? Do you pray or do you despise/judge? According to (v. 5) we need to follow Paul’s example and _____.
- ☀ In (v. 4) Paul talks about how the Scriptures can give us hope and encouragement in this difficult task of unity amidst diversity. Write down one passage of Scripture that can serve as an encouragement to you when you are struggling _____.
- ☀ When it comes to this whole idea of mutual acceptance, unity is not worth the work and toilsome effort needed to bring different people together, but according to (Rom. 15:5-7) what is _____?

Brothers and sisters, we have differences – differences regarding non-essentials of the faith. God’s desire is that we demonstrate an attitude of mutual acceptance. When we are in each other’s company, “strong” practice deference so that there is an environment of peace through which we can build each other up. This is going to be hard work, don’t fool yourself. But we have Christ’s example. We have the encouragement and endurance that come from the Word. And we have prayer. We must endeavor to be unified (even while we have differences) for if we are, God will be glorified. “May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing [this], so that by the power of the Holy Spirit you may abound in hope[filled] obedience,” to the Glory of God (Rom. 15:13).