



————— ❧ *Week 1* ❧ —————

Message Title: Joined in the struggle

This weeks focus scripture: *Romans 15:14-33*

Additional scripture referenced: *1 Corinthians 12:12-14, 27*
1 Timothy 6:1 Colossians 1:28-29 Hebrews 10:23-25

This weeks memory challenge: *Romans 15:14 I myself am convinced, my brothers and sisters, that you yourselves are full of goodness, filled with knowledge and competent to instruct one another.*

————— ❧ *Message Notes* ❧ —————

✝ Approaching the finish line!

Romans in three parts:

- *Truth Unashamed.* Romans 1:1 - 11:36
- *How then shall we live?* Romans 12:1 - 15:13
- *Together in the Journey.* Romans 15:13 - 16:27

✝ Reality! Essential to our IDENTITY in Christ is our shared PURPOSE as the body of Christ.
1 Corinthians 12:12-14, 27 1 Timothy 6:1

✝ Our shared purpose of BECOMING and MAKING Disciples.
Romans 15:14-22 Colossians 1:28-29

✝ As Disciples of Jesus, we are called together to provide:

- TANGIBLE support to God's work and His people
Romans 15:23-29
- SPIRITUAL support to God's work and His people
Romans 15:30-31
- The continuing purpose of REFRESHING one another
Romans 15:32-33 Hebrews 10:23-25

✝ Joined in the struggle

Day 1: Read 1 Corinthians 12:12-27. Modern evangelical Christian culture tends to emphasize the individual aspect of our relationship with Christ. In this week's message, Pastor Ethan stated that essential to our *identity in Christ* is our *shared purpose* as the body of Christ.

When you think of who you are, your identity, how important to you is your active participation in God's Kingdom with other believers?

In 1 Corinthians 12, Paul argues that every believer is essential to the work God does through the church. Do you see yourself as essential to the Body of Christ? What does this look like in your life? If you honestly answered no, how is God wanting to work in your life in this regard? What barriers or hurdles are keeping you from freely engaging with other believers in the work of God's kingdom? Be honest, and prayerfully take these thoughts to God. It may be helpful to have this discussion with Pastor Ethan or another believer.

Day 2: Read Romans 15:14-22 and Colossians 1:28-29. Consider the following:

- What is the difference between being a believer in Jesus and being a disciple of Jesus? How is God currently working in your life to *present you fully mature in Christ*?
- Read verse 14 in Romans 15. Based on what we have learned about the original Roman church, how would you describe the people Paul is talking to here? How would you feel if Paul was saying this statement directly to you? Would you agree? Again, how is God working to make this statement a reality in your life?

Day 3: Read Romans 15:23-31. What are different ways you see here that God uses us- as His disciples- to be involved in the work of His Kingdom? How do you see these at work in your life? What questions might you have about how God works through us in these ways?

Day 4: Read Romans 15:32-33, and Hebrews 10:23-25. How important is the encouragement and *refreshing* that God calls us to bring to each other as fellow believers? If you read Romans 15:32 in the NASB, you see the idea that In Christ we will find "*refreshing rest*" in each other's company. Is this your experience of the church? What work does God need to do in the church, and in your own life, for this to become a reality?