

# Apply The Word

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## Message Info

### Title:

Welcomed Unto Glory

### Speaker:

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### Scriptures

Rom. 15:1-7

**Theme:** Behold God's glory so that we might love one another freely and fully.

**Introduction:** This passage deals with one of the central tensions of the Christian life. The commands of this passage are very clear. We are to please our neighbors and to welcome one another. The tension is that we are to do this in the church and we are to do it with persons who may hold different convictions that we do on secondary matters. In the midst of this tension there is a Godward focus in this passage that helps us in our weakness. It's the reality of the Holy Spirit at work in us transforming us by God's grace and producing within us the desires we need to live holy and loving lives. What God commands of us, is never separated from what he has done for us.

1. A Loving Obligation (1)

- a. The strong must not despise the weak or act condescending towards them and the weak must not judge the strong or view them as corrupt. We must all live as "unto the Lord" according to the dictates of our own consciences, even while recognizing that our consciences can and should grow during our lifetimes.
- b. Paul is not saying that we should always live according to the standard of the weakest among us. He is saying that those who are strong should love their weaker brothers and sisters enough to know what might tempt them to act against their consciences. Christian liberty is not about pleasing ourselves, but about strengthening our brothers and sisters.

2. A Pleasant Destination (2-4)

- a. The strong are not to please themselves (v.1). We are all to please our neighbors (v.2). And Christ did not please himself (v.3). V.1 & v.2 are built upon the foundation of v.3. "Christ did not please himself" is the start of the gospel perspective that we need if we are to practice these commands.
- b. When we read the Scriptures, we see Jesus and when we see Jesus, we learn to understand his character. He loves us and we can revel in the good of what that produces. Life is hard. The love of God and the character of God affect our souls and fill us with endurance, encouragement and hope.

3. A Glorious Occupation (5-7)

- a. One of the great tensions in the Christian life is the relationship between justification and sanctification. We misunderstand justification when we think that our standing before God is based on our behavior. We misunderstand sanctification when we confuse our role and God's role. God's role is to change us, our role is to cooperate. We must work for our sanctification because God is at work.

### Questions

1. Examine your "Christian Liberty". Would you categorize yourself as strong or weak?
2. What specific temptations do you face in the area of Christian Liberty?
3. Share an example of how reading God's Word provided you with encouragement, endurance or hope.
4. What are some ways in which God's love for you motivates you to live a holy life?