

UNITY AND THE GLORY OF GOD

Romans 15:5-6

God shines when Christians are united

I. SUPPORTING ONE ANOTHER - Romans 15:1-6

A. WITH OUR DEVOTION (1-2)

1. Carrying others (1)
 - Bearing up not simply bearing with
2. Considering others (2) > Ask ...
 - a. What pleases them?
 - b. What is good for him or her?
 - c. What will edify him or her?
3. Committing to others
 - Without being condescending

B. IN OUR DIRECTION (5)

1. The Prayer
 - a. That we might be of the same mind with one another
 - b. The idea is that of heading in the same direction
2. The Pattern: According to Christ
 - a. He did not please Himself - see v. 3
 - b. See also II Cor. 8:9 and Phil. 2:5-8
3. The Prescription
 - This requires humility and sensitivity

C. FOR OUR DECLARATION (6)

1. Our Agreement: One accord
2. Our Announcement: One voice
3. Our Aspiration: Glorifying God the Father

SUMMARY: A congregation that demonstrates a sincere devotion to one another and a united direction toward a goal declares God's glory through its unity.

II. SHARING WITH OTHERS - Acts

A. IN JERUSALEM - Acts 2

1. Some Spirit-empowered reporters (4)
2. A “God’s-mighty-deeds” report (11)
3. A “pierced-heart” response (37-41)

B. AT CAESAREA - Acts 10

1. Peter’s Report (34-43)
 - a. God is impartial (34)
 - b. God raised Jesus (40)
 - c. Believers have sins forgiven (43)
2. People’s Response (44-46)
 - Unified magnifying:

SUMMARY: Congregations that unify to communicate Christ’s salvation to others
bring glory to God

III. SINGING TOGETHER TO GOD

A. GODLY ONES BLESS HIM - Psalm 145:10-12

1. Our Obligation (10b-11)
2. Our Opportunity (12)

B. LOVED ONES HONOR HIM - Revelation 1:5-6

1. Our Condition: Pardoned, princes and priests
2. Our Confession: To Him be glory and dominion forever
3. A Chorus: “We Praise Thee, O God” (by Julia C. Cory, 1882-1963)
- To the tune of “We Gather Together”

SUMMARY: When a congregation sings together about God, we bring glory to Him

CONCLUSION:

Question: What kind of polish makes God shine?

Answer: Unity!