Romans 15 New Living Translation (NLT)

Remember that in Romans 14 and Romans 15 Paul is teaching how the one who is being transformed by the renewing of their mind should demonstrate this by a change in attitude toward those with whom they disagree or hold different values.

Romans 14:17 For the Kingdom of God is not a matter of what we eat or drink, but of living a life of goodness and peace and joy in the Holy Spirit. <sup>18</sup> If you serve Christ with this attitude, you will please God, and others will approve of you, too. <sup>19</sup> So then, let us aim for harmony in the church and try to build each other up.

- "I have never yet known the Spirit of God to work where the Lord's people were divided." Like D.L. Moody, neither have I. Instead, most of us probably have seen too often how disunity hinders the Spirit's work in the church and damages the church's witness to the world.
- Unity in the body of Christ isn't something to be taken for granted nor taken lightly. It's a gift from God made possible by the cross of Jesus and made effective by the working of the Holy Spirit. Harmony or unity isn't something we're able to create, but is our responsibility to guard.
- Fighting over secondary things..We argue and fight in the church over some really dumb things. We argue about things that, from a heavenly perspective, don't really matter all that much...Arguing over secondary things is an indication of self-centeredness. What's required for maintaining unity is less "self" and more "centeredness" on what really matters. Or like Richard Baxter said: "In necessary things, unity; in doubtful things, liberty; in all things, charity."

I must be intentional at working through the impact of my actions on my relationships. "Whether you know it or not, or admit or not, you're being watched. And the things you model - - powerfully communicate your convictions about right or wrong, about morality and immorality. If you want to pass on Biblical values to others, you must model these values in your own life." <sup>6</sup>

• We only truly believe what we are prepared to put into practice. which takes us to chapter 15

15:1 <u>We</u> who are strong must be considerate of <u>those</u> who are sensitive about things like this. We must not just please ourselves. <sup>2</sup> We should help others do what is right and build them up in the Lord.

- here is the deal one cannot be Spiritually mature ...strong in the Lord while being emotionally immature...prideful and selfish in our relationships...
- So Paul is talking about emotional maturity....Both the strong believer and the weak believer need to grow. the strong believer needs to remember that the sensitive believer struggles with issues the strong believer has settled...and the strong must be considerate of the journey the sensitive one is on...
- The best hope of emotional maturity, then, appears to lie in a recognition of our need for and dependence on people who nevertheless remain separate from ourselves and refuse to submit to our whims. It lies in a recognition of others not as projections of our own desires but as independent beings with desires of their own.
- More broadly, it lies in acceptance of our limits. The world does not exist merely to satisfy our own desires; it is a world in which we can find pleasure and meaning, once we understand that others too have a right to those goods.
- The strong believer needs to grow in love; the weak believer needs to grow in knowledge. So long as a brother is weak in the faith, we must lovingly deal with him in his immaturity. But if we really love him, we will help him to grow. It is wrong for a Christian to remain immature, having a weak conscience.
- Paul does not mean being a "man-pleaser." Such a person may want to please his neighbor, but <u>not for his neighbor's good.</u>
- Paul classified himself with the strong saints as he dealt with a basic problem—selfishness. True Christian love is not selfish; rather, it seeks to share with others and make others happy. It is even willing to carry the younger Christians, to help them along in their spiritual development. We do not endure them. We encourage them!
- If you consider yourself strong in comparison to your brother, use your strength to serve your brothers in Christ instead of using your "strength"

- just to please yourself. So what does emotional strength look like?
- You are emotionally strong...When those close to you would say that you are not easily offended or hurt (Matt. 5:39–42, 1 Cor. 13:5). 1234 17.
- You are emotionally strong...I am consistently open to hearing and applying constructive criticism and feedback that others might have for me (Prov. 10:17; 17:10; 25:12)
- You are emotionally strong ..if you are regularly able to enter into other people's world and feelings, connecting deeply with them and taking time to imagine what it feels like to live in their shoes (John 1:1–14; 2 Cor. 8:9; Phil. 2:3–5). 1234 32.
- You are emotionally strong ...when People close to you would describe describe you as slow to speak, quick to listen, and good at seeing things from their perspective (James 1:19–20).
- You are emotionally strong ... when you are frequently able to distinguish the difference between when to help carry someone else's burden (Gal 6:2) and when to let it go so they can carry their own burden (Gal. 6:5).
- You are emotionally strong ..when you are careful that your copassion does not allow your neighbor to be confirmed in their weakness...but you speak that which challenges them to grow or re-think thier position...build them up
- A person's emotional and spiritual maturity is revealed by sacrifice. Just as loving parents make sacrifices for their children, so the mature believer sacrifices to help younger Christians grow in the faith.

The opposite of emotional/spiritual maturity is to be as Paul wrote.... sensitive not sensitive as in I am not hard hearted...or I care about people...it has the idea of ...being easily offended... this is really a pride issue.. a prideful person is an emotionally immature person....

<u>Proverbs 13:10</u> Where there is <u>strife</u>, there is <u>pride</u>, but wisdom is found in those who take advice.

You see the problem with Pride is it always thinks short term...And it is always easily offended... and quite demanding...

- Pride is a tangled sin, not only is it a lack of humility... it is a lack of love... Pride is impressed with the superficial...love with the real...
- Pride writes off people when offended...love gives people the benefit of the doubt...Pride looks for the negative...love looks for the positive....Pride destroys relationships...love builds relationships
- Pride focus on what people are doing wrong...love looks for what people are doing right...Pride makes others feel small...love makes others feel important
- Pride disrespects...love respects...Pride reveals insecurity ...love reveals confidence...Pride blinds one to opportunities...love sees opportunities...
- Pride resists learning...Love embraces learning...Pride is hard hearted ...love is soft hearted...
- Pride gives up quickly...love endures long...Pride fears people...love embraces people...

Bottom line if one has such pride that Jesus can't teach them ...and others cant either...then my friend you just can't learn...and you will be doomed to repeat the issues

The church cannot be ruled by the whims of the weak. and neither can healthy relationships "A genuine concern for the weak will mean an attempt to make them strong by leading them out of their irrational scruples so that they, too, can be strong." (Morris)

Jesus our example...

- <sup>3</sup> For even Christ didn't live to please himself. As the Scriptures say, "The insults of those who insult you, O God, have fallen on me."
- He was willing to die in our stead...the guiltless for the guilty...but also loved us and cares for us in our sin and about our lives...at great cost to himself...
- this requires Participation! Jesus participates in the lives of those he serves...to the degree that they identify with each other...

Psalm 69:7 For I endure insults for your sake; humiliation is written all over my face.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>8</sup> Even my own brothers pretend they don't know me; they treat me like a stranger

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>9</sup> Passion for your house has consumed me, and the insults of those who insult you have fallen on me. <sup>10</sup> When I weep and fast, they scoff at me. <sup>11</sup> When I dress in burlap

to show sorrow, they make fun of me. <sup>12</sup> I am the favorite topic of town gossip, and all the drunks sing about me.

- Jesus endured the insults of serving others because he was serving God... it is the cost of serving God is to serve others...
- these things were written long ago to help us in this...

Romans 15:<sup>4</sup> Such things were written in the Scriptures long ago to teach us. And the Scriptures give us hope and encouragement as we wait patiently for God's promises to be fulfilled.

Not waiting on God is a sign of pride and immaturity... know this there is a difference between God's timetable and ours?

- We think in terms of minutes, hours, and days, but God works in terms of years.
- when we feel God is distant or slow...it has to do with his timing and our timing...never His presence...for he is closest when we are in trouble..
- And We must confess that we sometimes get impatient with younger Christians, just as parents become impatient with their children.
- But the Word of God can give us the "patience and encouragement" that we need.
- Our lives change and grow in proportion to our connection in committed relationships with other people.....Little connection...little growth.....Much connection ...Much Growth
- And Do you know what was happening during this time? God is building maturity into us ...
- Just as it takes years to grow a sturdy oak tree, so it takes years to build the godly character qualities needed to be an effective servant of the Lord and a blessing to others...
- We have instant everything in our society, but there is no instant patience
- <u>patience is developed by regular, often long term interaction...ie parent child...God to you..and we need encouragment to see it through...because we burn out!</u>

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>5</sup> May God, who gives this <u>patience</u> and <u>encouragement</u>, help you live in complete harmony with each other, as is fitting for followers of Christ Jesus. <sup>6</sup> Then all of you

can join together with one voice, giving praise and glory to God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ.

- May God: The fact that Paul puts these words into the form of a prayer demonstrates that he recognizes that this is a work that the Holy Spirit must do inside us.
- The God of patience gives patience: Our God is a God of patience. We are often in such a hurry and God often seems to work too slowly for us.
- Often the purposes of God seem to be delayed but they always are fulfilled.
- God's delays are not His denials, and He has a loving purpose in every delay.
- We love God's patience with us....we need his patience with His people –
- Yet we often resent God's patience with His *plan*—for us... we think He should hurry up. Nevertheless, God is patient both with His people and in His plan.

The purpose? That you may through patience live in harmony: The goal is to glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ. We accomplish that goal by having one mind and one mouth – by unity in our thinking and speech.

Romans 15:7 Therefore, accept each other just as Christ has accepted you so that God will be given glory.

Therefore accept each another: Instead of letting these issues about disputable things divide Christians (especially making a division between Jew and Gentile), we should receive one another just as Christ received us – in the terms of pure grace, knowing yet bearing with our faults.

Just as Christ has accepted you: "Christ did not accept us because we were perfect, because he could see no fault in us, or because he hoped to gain our great abilities. Ah, no! But, in love covered our faults, and seeking our good, he welcomed us to his heart; so, in the same way, and with the same purpose, let us receive one another."

end

However ...we sometimes make two grievous yet common errors in being Patient through trials...

#### a. Becoming Lazy in our Patience and Faith:

Hebrews 6:12 We do not want you to become **lazy**, but to imitate those who through **faith** and **patience** inherit what has been promised.

- It is interesting that we can become lazy in patience...
- Lazy means idle. Lethargic, languid...it is the opposite of energetic...
- He lost the energy to wait on God...Do you know waiting and patience takes energy...

## Think of how much energy a child must exercise to wait patiently

It takes energy to wait in line....at the store, movies, pretty much any line...

- Wait 5 minutes...seems like an eternity to us...I mean a child...
- You can learn many things from children. How much patience you have, for instance. Also...Patience is a fruit of the Spirit...If He is in us Patience will be produced. And that only comes by taking us through trials......

Now God is a God of purposeful goals..so moving toward the goal is a priority... or going in the right direction... how quickly the goal is achieved is not the most important thing... nor is it the most important component...the destination is...so the direction is the priority! ...and regards to time...God is never late nor early nor in a hurry...

<u>2 Peter 3:8</u> But do not forget this one thing, dear friends: With the Lord **a** day is like **a** thousand years, and a thousand years are like **a** day.

- <sup>8</sup>Remember that Christ came as a servant to the Jews<sup>[b]</sup> to show that God is true to the promises he made to their ancestors. <sup>9</sup>He also came so that the Gentiles might give glory to God for his mercies to them. That is what the psalmist meant when he wrote: "For this, I will praise you among the Gentiles; I will sing praises to your name."
- <sup>10</sup> And in another place it is written, "Rejoice with his people, you Gentiles." <sup>11</sup> And yet again, "Praise the LORD, all you Gentiles. Praise him, all you people of the earth." <sup>[e]</sup>
- <sup>12</sup> And in another place Isaiah said, "The heir to David's throne<sup>[f]</sup> will come, and he will rule over the Gentiles. They will place their hope on him." <sup>13</sup> I pray that God, the source of hope, will fill you completely with joy and peace because you trust in him. Then you will overflow with confident hope through the power of the Holy Spirit.

Therefore receive one another: Instead of letting these issues about disputable things divide Christians (especially making a division between Jew and Gentile), we should receive one another just as Christ received us – in the terms of pure grace, knowing yet bearing with our faults.

- i. Spurgeon on **just as Christ also received us**: "Christ did not receive us because we were perfect, because he could see no fault in us, or because he hoped to gain somewhat at our hands. Ah, no! But, in loving condescension covering our faults, and seeking our good, he welcomed us to his heart; so, in the same way, and with the same purpose, let us receive one another."
- b. **As it is written**: Paul quotes a series of passages from the Old Testament demonstrating that God intends that the Gentiles praise Him. Instead of dividing over disputable matters, Jews and Gentiles should unite in Jesus over the common ground of praise.
- i. **I will confess to You among the Gentiles**: The quotation from <u>Psalm 18</u> describes Jesus Himself giving praise among the Gentiles.
- c. Now may the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace: The prayer and blessing concluding the section is appropriate. As God fills us with the blessings of His joy and peace in believing, we are equipped to live in this common bond of unity God calls us to.

• The word "peace" is not just the absence of war, but a positive state of well-being... I am ok.. Peace is a quietness of the soul...and mind in the midst of noise...

\*\*\*Here is the source of inner peace: Knowing God is attentive to your situation always and is in control always...you have the Peace which passes understanding..because I should be going crazy because of some issue...conflict...hurt...trouble

<u>John 16:33</u> "I have told you these things, so that **in** me you may have peace. **In this world** you will have trouble. But take heart! I have overcome the **world**."

- When you know there will be troubles and trials and battles..and you expect them...you are half way to inner peace...
- Take Heart...keep your heart strong! you know that Jesus has overcome them all...before they even come to you..
  - Evil ultimately will not win...Life is bigger than loss, and God is bigger than life....
  - therefore

Phil 4:6 Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. <sup>7</sup> And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

- It may not be easy to couple Peace with tough trials, but Instead of losing our peace and worrying, scripture tells us to be thankful and pray.
- Why be Thankful and pray? Thankful that God hears my prayers...and knowing that God answers all my prayers the same way I would If I had His Wisdom Power and Love. Therefore I have peace. ... I don't have to be at war with people...
- Then as children of God...we can be Peace makers to this troubled, violent world we live in...

\*\*\*\*So what does being a child of God peacemaker look like? Well the opposite of Peacemaking is WAR-Making..."Blessed are the peacemakers..." (v. 9)

- The blessing is for those who "make" peace. So..Peacemaking means to end a personal war..
- In other words, his blessing is for those who actively make peaceful relationships happen.

\*\*\*As Psalm 34:14 says, "Turn from evil and do good; seek peace and pursue it."

- Since peacemaking involves active interventions in difficult relational conflicts,
- it is not a weakness, but a spiritual strength
- peacemaker's overcomes evil with goodness and wisdom.
- The peacemaker's goal is to end the hostility between two parties and if possible restore the relationship.
- The beatitude says that the peacemakers will be called "the sons of God." means to bear the likeness or the characteristic of God

\*\*\*\*What does Peacemaking look like?...It looks like true Forgiveness

The first Step to Peacemaking is the mind set to give up any hope of having a better past... What keeps us at war with people? we have been hurt...we want revenge or at least justice...we want them to hurt, like we have been hurt...

## listen...Peacemaking is leaving revenge or punishment up to God...

**So Paul leaves us this comfort...** Rom 12:19 Do not take revenge, my friends, but leave room for God's wrath, for it is written: "It is mine to avenge; I will repay," says the Lord. On the contrary: "If your enemy is hungry, feed him; if he is thirsty, give him something to drink, In doing this, you will heap burning coals on his head." RO 12:21 Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.

• Without forgiveness we are continually at war with eachother... thereforecontinuing the cycle of hurting for being hurt... and this war making spills into our relationships with other people ...

- That is why so many people only have superficial short term relationships ...because when their hurt they get bitter go to war and move on... and the consequences of living in unforgiveness is a life of resentment and isolation.
- Others who do stay in relationship dig trenches and continually fire at eachother
- and the collateral damage effects everyone else we are in relationship with!
- \*\*\*\*In Relationship wars ...we give and receive wounds... War wounds eat up a lot of energy...slows our life down If you are locked in war over the past, you have less available energy for your life now.
  Unforgiveness destroys relationships...

\*\*\*\*But here is the Beauty...If you forgive someone's hurts they are removed...I am not at war with you any longer...I get freedom... something happens inside of our souls, I can them healing...Peace and war cannot simultaneously reside in the same Space...

So Here is how we become peace makers... It is essential that I decide I want to be at peace therefore I must forgive the one who injured me. I might be able to be at peace with the offender...but regardless I will be at peace!

- Forgiving others spares us from the consequences of living out the stress of maintaining a war!! in ourselves, with God, or others.
- An old Chinese proverb rightly states "The man who opts for revenge should dig two graves." One for himself and one for the offender...it kills them both
- 1. To forgive I must Acknowledge the Hurt, the pain and the Wrong..or else it is peace faking!
  - A hurt that is acknowledged... is a hurt that can be forgiven and healed allow yourself to say, I was hurt/offended when my spouse/him/her/they... did/said... this. Instead of suppressing our feelings, we must come to grips with them.
  - Instead of turning from the pain and anger, we must face them.
  - How I was hurt, what it made me feel like, the consequences it has had on my life...that is acknowledgment.
  - And one cannot truly forgive without experiencing the emotion of grief...loss
  - The cup of our emotional pain and grief must be poured out...
  - It is a well established fact that healing is a process...and forgiveness acknowledges the grief and pain we experience through the hurtful acts of others.

- 3). Forgiveness is agreeing to live with the consequences of another person's sin..to become at Peace with it...it happened I cannot fix it, but I can be free froms its control over me in the present and future
  - How many people blame their past..for their present failures and lack of hope for the future?
  - we are all living with the consequences of someone's else's sin...The only choice is whether we do so in the bondage of bitterness or in the freedom of forgivenessand and you will be able to direct your life in positive thoughts and actions.
  - Allow God to bring to the surface the painful memories and acknowledge how you feel with those who have hurt you...then put your weapons down...allow God to deal with them...
- 4). Forgiveness is choosing not to hold someone's sin against them any longer

<sup>COL 3:13</sup> Bear with each other and forgive whatever grievances you may have against one another. Forgive as the Lord forgave you.

- Holding someone's sin against them is a lot of work...it is heavy takes mental energy ..energy that can be sued for productive things..
- And you cannot bear with someone long you are carrying grievances against!
- Like God does us

HEB 10:17 Then he adds: "Their sins and lawless acts I will remember no more." <sup>18</sup> And where these have been forgiven, there is no longer any sacrifice for sin.

- How has God forgiven us? He does not keep a record of wrongs...nor does it have to be paid for over and over...
- <u>Some people forgive...but continually remind the offender at opportune times...</u>how much they owe for being forgiven...God does not make us keep sacrificing over and over again for the same sin.

<sup>1CO 13:4</sup> Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud. <sup>5</sup> It is not rude, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs.

- It is common for bitter people to bring up past offenses with those who have hurt them They want them to feel as bad as they do...but there is little value...Love is what changes people
- 5). Forgiving does not necessarily involve Reconciliation...though that is the desire...
- According to Scripture, <u>full reconciliation</u> is the ideal in human relationships.

- But Reconciliation is the responsibility of both the forgiver and the injurer, not the forgiver alone, it takes two making the changes necessary to walk in peace together Reconciliation requires two people making the decision to change in their relationship...to turn and move toward each other....
- Peacemaking does not mean going back to a dangerous or abusive situation...because the injuring party says their sorry...

Romans 12:18 If it is possible, as far as it depends on you, live at peace with everyone.

- The words "if it is possible" imply that it may not always be possible to maintain peaceful relationships, and the words "as far as it depends on you" mean that it is you are not always able to maintain peace in some relationships...
- Forgiveness does not necessarily include full restoration of trust broken by an injury.
- The injured party can forgive an offender even though the offender may never (or for safety sake, must never) be a part of his or her life in the future.
- Nor is "Forgiveness is not a magic trick that allows us to control other people." I can continue hurting you because you have to forgive me!!!
- I'll keep forgiving even though he never changes, since that's what Jesus calls me to do. Yes, Jesus asks us to forgive over and over, but he never asks us to put up with wrong behavior over and over!!
- Part of peace making is to set clear-cut boundaries that protect us from further harm.
- Forgiving from our heart isn't being a punching bag. Although the Lord forgives, he doesn't tolerate sin, and neither should we.
- Jesus' "Parable of the Prodigal Son" presents a wonderful image of reconciliation and reunion between a father and his son.
- But the sad reality of life is that not all prodigals return home.
- Neither do all prodigals recognize, take responsibility for, or even cease their injurious acts.
- Also Forgiving does not necessarily involve...The exemption of the injurer from the demands of justice,
- Again... In Jesus' "Parable of the Prodigal Son," the father forgives his errant son.
- However, he does not also seek to divide his estate between his two sons a second time, as if the younger son had not already received his fair share.

• Peace making honors fair treatment of the elder brother and the ultimate responsibility of the younger son for his actions.

<u>6) Everyday I need to make peace in my Heart.</u> MT 6:11 Give us today our daily bread. <sup>12</sup> Forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors.

- We are hurt often...we need to be diligent peace keepers... I think this is why Jesus told his students to forgive "seventy times seven" (Matt. 18:21). Forgiveness in this sense is rarely easy or quick. We might have to do it over and over again in our minds...
- If I forgive someone for a wrong done to me, I no longer allow that event to determine how I treat the other person.
- I may remember the wrong or I may forget it, but either way I have disarmed it.
- It no longer determines my actions, thoughts, or words.
- Spend a few minutes each day cleaning out your thinking/heart.
- Practice on small hurts. the little battles! To become a generous forgiver of major pains, practice forgiveness on small hurts. a rude clerk, a driver who cut you off, a doctor who keeps you waiting and waiting, etc.
- Use those events as practice time to prepare you for the tougher task of forgiving major hurts...
- Work up too major ones...caused by those near to us...and those that we still carry from our past
- forgiveness opens the way to healing of the war wounds we all receive living in this world...and opens the door of peace! Just what the world needs! end

end

<sup>4</sup>I am fully convinced, my dear brothers and sisters, that you are full of goodness. You know these things so well you can teach each other all about them

# Paul's Reason for Writing

"I am fully convinced, my dear brothers and sisters, that you are full of goodness. You know these things so well you can teach each other all about them. "Even so, I have been bold enough to write about some of these points, knowing that all you need is this reminder. For by God's grace, "I am a special messenger from Christ Jesus to you Gentiles. I bring you the Good News so that I might present you as an acceptable offering to God, made holy by the Holy Spirit. "So I have reason to be enthusiastic about all Christ Jesus has done through me in my service to God. "Yet I dare not boast about anything except what Christ has done through me, bringing the Gentiles to God by my message and by the way I worked among them. "They were convinced by the power of miraculous signs and wonders and by the power of God's Spirit. In this way, I have fully presented the Good News of Christ from Jerusalem all the way to Illyricum."

<sup>20</sup>My ambition has always been to preach the Good News where the name of Christ has never been heard, rather than where a church has already been started by someone else. <sup>21</sup>I have been following the plan spoken of in the Scriptures, where it says,

"Those who have never been told about him will see, and those who have never heard of him will understand." [13]

<sup>22</sup> In fact, my visit to you has been delayed so long because I have been preaching in these places.

#### Paul's Travel Plans

<sup>28</sup>But now I have finished my work in these regions, and after all these long years of waiting, I am eager to visit you. <sup>24</sup>I am planning to go to Spain, and when I do, I will stop off in Rome. And after I have enjoyed your fellowship for a little while, you can provide for my journey.

<sup>26</sup> But before I come, I must go to Jerusalem to take a gift to the believers<sup>10</sup> there. <sup>26</sup> For you see, the believers in Macedonia and Achaia<sup>10</sup> have eagerly taken up an offering for the poor among the believers in Jerusalem. <sup>27</sup> They were glad to do this because they feel they owe a real debt to them. Since the Gentiles received the spiritual blessings of the Good News from the believers in Jerusalem, they feel the least they can do in return is to help them financially. <sup>28</sup> As soon as I have delivered this money and completed this good deed of theirs, I will come to see you on my way to Spain. <sup>29</sup> And I am sure that when I come, Christ will richly bless our time together.

<sup>30</sup> Dear brothers and sisters, I urge you in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to join in my struggle by praying to God for me. Do this because of your love for me, given to you by the Holy Spirit. <sup>31</sup> Pray that I will be rescued from those in Judea who refuse to obey God. Pray also that the believers there will be willing to accept the donation. I am taking to Jerusalem. <sup>32</sup> Then, by the will of God, I will be able to come to you with a joyful heart, and we will be an encouragement to each other.

<sup>33</sup> And now may God, who gives us his peace, be with you all. Amen. [0]