

Lent Day 35

Monday April 10, 2017

Reading: Romans 15:1-6

We who are strong ought to bear with the failings of the weak and not to please ourselves.

2 Each of us should please our neighbours for their good, to build them up. *3 For even Christ did not please himself but, as it is written: "The insults of those who insult you have fallen on me." 4 For everything that was written in the past was written to teach us, so that through the endurance taught in the Scriptures and the encouragement they provide we might have hope. 5 May the God who gives endurance and encouragement give you the same attitude of mind toward each other that Christ Jesus had, 6 so that with one mind and one voice you may glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ.*

Reflection

As Sarah and I parent our children, one of the things we understand our job to be is to help our kids know themselves. We desire to see the best for them. So, we talk to them about their strengths and caution them about areas we perceive can be a problem. We want to build them up to be the best versions of themselves they can be.

This is what Paul is saying we should all be doing when it comes to the community. This is what it means to love our neighbour. We need to be thinking intentionally about those who God has put into our church community. Who are they? What gifts do they have? Are we ensuring those gifts are being cultivated and used appropriately? What are the areas that are a challenge? Are we helping them guard against those areas?

Paul goes so far as to say that both Jesus and Scripture are resources which are available to us to accomplish this building up of the community. The whole point is that we glorify God all together. We need to look past our own interests. We need to be a community which looks to the interests of all for the sake of God's glory.

Prayer

Lord, give us eyes to see one another in order to build up and not tear down. Let your name be praise by us all. Amen.