

**Unity – Romans 15:1-13**  
*James Muldoon - Carey Baptist Church – 21 November 2010*

---

**Introduction**

- What does it feel like to be part of a church split?
- Why was there tension between the different parts of the Roman church?
- How, in **Romans 14**, did Paul want those who are weak in faith and those who are strong in faith to regard each other?
- What sorts of issues does Paul have in view here?
- What might be equivalent issues in our context?
- What is the hub of what Paul is saying in **Romans 15:1-13**?

**i Open-handed unity**

**a' Instructions**

- What does Paul tell the strong to do in **v1**?
- What three things does Paul want all Christians to do in **v2**?
- What happens if Christians are selfish instead of obeying Paul's words here?

**B' Reasons**

- Why, in **v3a**, are we to aim for open-handed unity?
- Which other Bible verse speaks about our Lord not pleasing himself?
- Which Bible verse does Paul quote in **v3b**?
- What other reason does this verse give us to think generously of others?
- Paul digresses briefly in **v4**. What is his main point?

**γ' Prayer**

- What does Paul want the Roman Christians to have in **v5**?
- Does that mean that they have to think the same about everything?
- Where should unity lead, according to **v6**?
- What does all this mean we should do?

## ii God-planned unity

### a' Instructions

- What does Paul want the Roman Christians to do in v7?
- Who is their model?

### B' Reasons

- What did our Lord come to do for the Jews in v8?
- What did he come to do for the Gentiles in v9a?
- What does this show about God's plans for Jews and Gentiles?
- Which four Old Testament verses does Paul turn to so as to prove this...
  - (i) In v9b?
  - (ii) In v10?
  - (iii) In v11?
  - (iv) In v12?
- For us, it is unlikely that we divide over Jew / Gentile lines. But where might there be dividing lines in churches today?
- What might you need to do about it?

### γ' Prayer

- What does Paul want for the Roman church in v13?
- What will this increase?
- Whose help do they need?
- How should the verse challenge us?