"13 Reminders as We Prepare to Regather" (Part 3)

Romans 14:1-15:7

I Corinthians 12:12-13

¹² For just as the body is one and has many members, and all the members of the body, though many, are one body, so it is with Christ. ¹³ For in one Spirit we were all...

I Corinthians 12:12-13

... baptized into one body—Jews or Greeks, slaves or free—and all were made to drink of one Spirit.

John 17:20-23

²⁰ "I do not ask for these only, but also for those who will believe in me through their word, ²¹ that they may all be one, just as you, Father, are in me, and I in you, that they also may be in us, so that the world may believe ...

John 17:20-23

"...that you have sent me. ²² The glory that you have given me I have given to them, that they may be one even as we are one, ²³ I in them and you in me, that they may become perfectly...

John 17:20-23

...one, so that the world may know that you sent me and loved them even as you loved me.

Larry Osborne, Accidental Pharisees

"When it comes to our unity in Christ, we constantly have choices to make. How will we respond to our brothers and sisters in Christ we wouldn't have chosen if we had been given the choice-in light...

Larry Osborne, Accidental Pharisees

"... of our spiritual unity or in light of our earthly differences? The choice is ours. We can always find a way to get along. We can always find a way to pick a fight. But the choice we make...

Larry Osborne, Accidental Pharisees

"... will always have huge ramifications, not only for us but also for all the people we hope to influence and reach for Jesus."

The Key Point

When we are <u>together</u>, it's not about <u>you</u>.

 Remember the difference between opinion and absolute (14:1-2).

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- 2. Remember to value those who differ from you (14:3).

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- 3. Remember that God is the ultimate Judge (14:4).

Remember that your convictions are YOUR convictions (14:5).

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Remember to make God's glory your aim (14:6-9).

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- Remember to make God's glory your aim (14:6-9).
- Remember your conclusions have consequences (14:10-12).

13 Reminders as We Regather7. Remember to be sensitive and sacrificial (14:13-15).

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- Remember to call others to what is really important (14:16-19).

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- Remember to call others to what is really important (14:16-19).
- Remember not to cause others to sin (14:20-21).

10. Remember to follow your conscience (14:22-23).

Warren Wiersbe, Be Right

"No Christian can 'borrow' another Christian's convictions and be honest in his Christian life."

13 Reminders as We Regather10. Remember to follow conscience (14:22-23).

11. <u>Remember to love your</u> <u>neighbor (15:1-3).</u>

John Chrysostom, from the 4th century

"He [Jesus] had power not to have been reproached, power not to have suffered what He did suffer, had He been minded to look to His own things."

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13 Reminders as We Regather10. Remember to follow conscience (14:22-23).

11. Remember to love your neighbor (15:1-3).

12. <u>Remember the importance of</u> <u>unity</u> (15:4-6).

H.A. Ironside, when asked what denomination he belonged to

"David said, 'I am a companion of all of them that fear Thee and keep Thy precepts."

H.C. Leupold, Exposition of Psalms

"This seems to suggest that a parallel blessing is unity, when head and body are of one mind. The blessing of unity seems to drip down from the leading spirits in the nation to the members of...

H.C. Leupold, Exposition of Psalms

"... less importance in the official and the social scale. The blessing drops down on all and infuses itself into them."

13 Reminders as We Regather10. Remember to follow conscience (14:22-23).

- 11. Remember to love your neighbor (15:1-3).
- 12. Remember the importance of unity (15:4-6).

13. Remember to welcome (15:7).



... 'Let there be no strife between you and me, and between your herdsmen and my herdsmen, for we are kinsmen.'

Saint Augustine, from the 4th-5th centuries

"In essentials, unity; in nonessentials, liberty; in all things, charity."

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When we are <u>together</u>, it's not about <u>you</u>.

Ephesians 4:1-3

¹ I therefore, a prisoner for the Lord, urge you to walk in a manner worthy of the calling to which you have been called, ² with all humility and gentleness, with patience,...

Ephesians 4:1-3

... bearing with one another in love, ³ eager to maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace.