

7.

Romans 15:1-3

Be A People Builder

For any church to grow, it has to be focussed on helping people to grow. Paul's Epistle to the Romans describes that journey as: (i) coming to recognise who we are before God; (ii) that despite this, God has extended His redeeming love toward us; (iii) we receive God's gracious offer by putting our trust in Christ as our Saviour; (iv) after calling on the name of the Lord for salvation, we surrender our lives to Him so that our minds can be renewed and we can use the gifts God has given us; (v) we become committed to a local church where we can serve others *together*.

1. Match the journey of growth described by the Apostle Paul throughout Romans (in the left column) with its implication (from the right column) -

- | | |
|---|---|
| (i) coming to recognise who we are before God ____ | 1. The Father sent His Son to die in on our behalf and in our place |
| (ii) that despite this, God has extended His redeeming love toward us ____ | 2. Salvation is by grace through faith in Christ - not our own efforts |
| (iii) we receive God's gracious offer by putting our trust in Christ as our Saviour ____ | 3. Sinners, estranged from God |
| (iv) after calling on the name of the Lord for salvation, we surrender our lives to Him so that our minds can be renewed and we can use the gifts God has given us ____ | 4. The local church is |
| (v) we become committed to a local church where we can serve others together ____ | 5. Following Christ involves a transformation in how we think, channel our feelings, and see our fellow man |

2. Those who have made good progress along this journey of growth toward Christlikeness are described by Paul in Romans 15:1 as _____ .

3. What challenge does Paul give *these* believers in Romans 15:1?
-

If you are praying for your church to grow, you have a good reason to believe that God will answer your prayer. Perhaps this weekend you might see your prayers begin to be answered!

4. Based on Romans 15:1-2, how do you hope your fellow church members will respond to those whom God may send in response to your prayers?
-

5. Have you ever visited a church where you didn't know anybody in it? From that visit, would you be likely to ever return? Why?/Why not?
-

How would your impression have been effected if you were *not* a believer?

What lessons from this can your church learn?

6. Based on Romans 15:3, what would you say to a strong brother or sister who only attended church when their favourite preacher was rostered on?
-

7. What are the challenges that mature believers have to face in trying to help weaker brothers or sisters to grow in Christ? Discuss.
-

8. Based on Romans 15:1-3, how should we be praying for our church?
-

Amen.