



Romans 15:1-1-6 One Voice of Praise | November 2nd - 8th, 2014

Warm-up: “It’s not about you,” says Rick Warren in the opening line of The Purpose Driven Life. Why is this truth such a compelling opening line? Do you wake up each day embracing this truth?

- Slowly read through **Romans 15:1-6** aloud. Christ is our model. He denied self-gratification so that He could clearly reflect God and *His Kingdom* to others. Paul was the same way. Though he was a ‘partaker’ in some areas, he chose the higher call of love so as not stumble ‘abstainers.’
 - The topic of *partaking* or *abstaining* has recently been at the forefront our study of Romans. How have you been practically challenged in this during recent weeks?

- Read **Galatians 6:2** aloud. Joni Erickson Tada (a quadriplegic) comments on the radical power of Christ’s love; how it serves to lift burdens. She says, “*physical burdens, guilt, sorrow, sin, and anything burdensome can be lifted by love...*”
 - In what ways have you personally felt Christ’s love through other people lifting your burdens? What did they do for you specifically, and why was this so impacting?

- Jesus Christ, the Exalted Son of God, did not order His life so as to please Himself! (though He had every right) He set up His life in order to please and help others. “**For even the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve others and to give his life as a ransom for many.**” - **Mark 10:45**
 - By choosing to physically deny our own pleasure, roll up our sleeves, and serve others, we model the way of Christ in profound ways. Are you in the habit of *regularly* serving? Have you ever been? What kinds of freedoms have you experienced as the result of selflessly serving others?

- On **Romans 15:5-6**, David Guzik comments, “*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.*”
 - Why are you thankful that God is “**the God of patience**” (v.5)?
 - Where do you need the most patience right now?

Wrap-up: Share with the group, one way you plan to deny yourself this week so that you may please another for his or her good. Pray for your follow-through!