SERMON NOTES

A Life Directed By God

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Nexus Church
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Romans 15

opening prayer

- Ask God to give your group the same spirit of endurance and encouragement that Paul describes in Romans 15.
- Invite Holy Spirit to speak through your discussion and to help each person apply what they hear.

ice breaker

Think of someone you know personally who has clearly shaped their life around serving others because of their faith in Jesus. What stands out to you about the way they live?

overview

- Before meeting Jesus, life is about whatever you want it to be. After Jesus gets a hold of your life, life is about pleasing him.
- Christian freedom is not the ultimate value. Freedom serves the purpose of love.
- The filter for everything we say and do is this: does it build others up and help them become who God has called them to be?
- Accepting one another across divides of disagreement is not a compromise of conviction. It is an act of obedience to Christ who has accepted us.
- Christian maturity is not about claiming all of your rights. It is about cultivating habits of responsibility and love toward others.

go deeper

Embracing Jesus as Lord means allowing Him to reshape the very centre of our lives: our desires, priorities, decisions and sense of purpose. Faith is not simply about believing in Jesus, but surrendering our right to live as though we belong only to ourselves. Like Paul, whose encounter with Jesus fundamentally redirected his life, we are invited to move from self-determination to willing obedience.

Romans 15:1–2 challenges us to understand that spiritual maturity is measured not merely by the freedoms we possess, but by the love with which we exercise them. In a world that often prioritises personal rights, recognition and individual choice, the gospel invites us to consider not only what we are entitled to, but what love requires of us. This may mean laying aside our need to win an argument, choosing gentleness when frustration rises, or putting aside our preferences to strengthen someone else. Such choices are not signs of weakness, but expressions of Christlike love.

Romans 15:7 calls us to welcome one another as Christ has welcomed us. This can be challenging when we differ in our beliefs, values or perspectives. Yet unity does not require agreement on everything; it requires humility, grace and a willingness to love beyond our differences. When we remember how freely Christ has accepted us, we are challenged to extend that same grace to others.

application 01

Read Romans 14:13 together.

Choose one area of surrender. Identify one priority, ambition or habit you need to bring before God this week. Pray for His guidance and take one practical step towards putting His will first.

discussion

1. **Embracing Jesus as Lord:** How has following Jesus changed your priorities and purpose, and where is he still challenging you to put him first?

2. **Rights and Responsibility:** What is one situation where you could lay aside your own preferences or rights for the good of someone else?

3. **Accepting One Another:** How can we show Christlike love and acceptance toward someone we disagree with, without pretending our differences don't matter?

application 02

Reach across a divide.

Think of someone in your church, workplace, or family with whom you have a genuine disagreement, whether theological or otherwise. This week, reach out to them not to debate the issue but simply to ask how they are doing and to pray for them.

closing prayer

- To embrace Jesus as Lord and follow Him as Lord.
- For Holy's Spirit's discernment when not to assert your rights and to love others, accepting one another as Christ has accepted.