

## I. Fulfill Your Calling - Rom. 15:14-16

1. "Brothers and sisters" - addressing a new subject (**verse 14**)  
Rea            -tender words, you are full of goodness  
                 -he'd learned of their goodness
  - Rea            -no, it says he's "convinced" (in his heart) they are better than they're acting - and  
                 verse 15 he tells them, they already know these things, he's just "reminding"
  2. Reminders (**verse 15**)  
Rea            -what drove him - the grace given him - a position of influence - he is  
                 "ministering" (**verse 16**) to them, as Gentiles
  3. What was his ministry?  
                 -to be a priest to the Gentiles - in proclaiming the gospel to them
  4. The result? - Gentiles become an "acceptable" offering to God  
Rea            -so people are an offering? - yes, because we are all "living sacrifices" (Rom.  
                 12:1-2)  
                 -made acceptable by the Holy Spirit
- Rea    **Ideas and Questions:**
1. You get a bit of Paul's "self-identity" here - this is how he looks at himself... does that matter? - how do you look at yourself?
  2. Tender words get further than other words
  3. Tender as they are he addresses frankly what needs to be mentioned... often we avoid issues, and that gets us no further. He does not just kick them out of the church (church discipline) or purge the church from them, he deals with issues.

## II. Boast About Jesus (Rom. 15:17-19)

1. His boasting or glorying was in Jesus -not himself (**verse 17**)  
                 -it is a part of his "service" to God
  2. He will speak only of what God has done (**verse 18**)  
                 -granted, done in the ministry of Paul, but it was God who did it  
Rea            -true joy in being used, or feeling that you have been used of God
  - Rea            -his target group was the Gentiles, and God had used the deeds and words of Paul  
                 but it was God that did the "saving"
  3. What had God done - wonders and signs (**verse 19**)  
                 -through the Spirit - from Jerusalem to Illyricum  
Rea            -here is the extent of his ministry
- Rea    **Ideas and Questions:**
1. Remember, Acts 1:9 - in Jerusalem, Judea, Samaria and the uttermost parts of the world
  2. Do you think Paul was a missionary in the modern thoughts of that role? - did Paul see himself as a missionary?
  3. If your ego is in check, then you can tell what God has done and it doesn't sound like bragging
  4. He is careful to keep God in His place of honor
  5. A great verse is Acts 19:11 - God wrought special miracles by the hands of Paul  
                 First, God did the *special* miracles

Secondly, God did it by the hands of Paul

### III. Seek the Lost - Rom. 15:20-21

1. Paul's "ambition" is to preach where they have never heard (**verse 20**)
  - so he wouldn't be building on another's foundation
- Rea -obviously there were other "foundations" - so at this point the gospel has already grown substantially
- other passage that might be relevant - 1 Corinthians 3 - Paul, Apollos, and others
2. Is this a good strategy - to preach where others have not been? (**Verse 21**)
  - Paul quotes the Old Testament to strengthen his idea of going where the gospel had not been
  - Isaiah 52:15
- Rea **Ideas and Questions:**
  1. Some shy away from "new" territory - new people groups
  2. In the book of Acts you get the history of moving to areas that had never been reached
- both in the lives of Peter and Paul. The obstacles abound, but the Gospel is not bound.
3. So send I you - we too are "sent"

### IV. Partner with Others - Rom. 15:30-33

1. Join me in the struggle - pray for me (**verse 30**)
- Rea -the method by which they joined was prayer
- Rea -two struggling together is a great analogy of prayer
2. Verse 31 tells what he asked them to pray
  - A. He be kept safe
  - B. That he might deliver the offering
- Rea -this sounds like the Cooperative Program in his day
- C. That the offering be favorably received
3. The offering is for the poor in Jerusalem - Rom. 15:26
  - there is some doubt that the Gentiles would accept the offering well from the
- Jews
4. If this happens I will be able to come to you (**verse 32**) - and be "refreshed"
- Rea -good analogy that fellowship is "refreshing" - we might say it... "he is like a breath of fresh air"
- he has desire to visit believers in Rome
5. He asks God to give them "peace" (**verse 33**)
- Rea -actually that the God of peace be with them - if God is with them they will know peace
- Rea **Ideas and Questions:**
  1. It was a "personal" thing - his ministry
    - you get no feeling that he is disconnected from his "people" but that their connection (on the contrary) is strong
  2. Missions is a "partner" thing
  3. Partnership involved money?? - money can get divisive