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Real Power

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Romans 15:1-13 ¹We who are strong ought to bear with the shortcomings of the weak and not to please ourselves. ²Each of us should please his neighbor for his good, to build him up. ³For even Christ did not please Himself, but as it is written: "The insults of those who insult You have fallen on Me." ⁴For everything that was written in the past was written for our instruction, so that through endurance and the encouragement of the Scriptures, we might have hope. ⁵Now may the God who gives endurance and encouragement grant you harmony with one another in Christ Jesus, ⁶so that with one mind and one voice you may glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ. ⁷Accept one another, then, just as Christ accepted you, in order to bring glory to God. ⁸For I tell you that Christ has become a servant of the circumcised on behalf of God's truth, to confirm the promises made to the patriarchs, ⁹so that the Gentiles may glorify God for His mercy. As it is written: "Therefore I will praise You among the Gentiles; I will sing hymns to Your name." ¹⁰Again, it says: "Rejoice, O Gentiles, with His people." ¹¹And again: "Praise the Lord, all you Gentiles, and extol Him, all you peoples." ¹²And once more, Isaiah says: "The Root of Jesse will appear, One who will arise to rule over the Gentiles; in Him the Gentiles will put their hope." ¹³Now may the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you believe in Him, so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit. (BSB)

I. What can we learn from this passage?

A. We must **reestablish** a line between how we view non-born-again people with born-again people! MTD has **blurred** our vision. V. 1

B. We must act **humbly** toward others for their own good. V. 2-3

Philippians 2:5-7 Let this mind be in you which was also in Christ Jesus: Who, existing in the form of God, did not consider equality with God something to be grasped, but emptied Himself, taking the form of a servant, being made in human likeness. (BSB)

C. Instruction from Scripture **combined** with our enduring faithfulness to it will produce hope in us. V. 4

D. Our commonality in Christ will bring us **together**. V. 5-7

E. God's will is that this commonality will help us to reach out to those who **need** to hear. V. 8-12

F. The overflow from our hope will empower us as the **Holy Spirit** takes over and works through us. V. 13

II. How can we apply these truths to our life?

- A.** We can begin with a **checklist** of what we believe.
- B.** We must **follow** Christ's footsteps in how He treated others. Both those inside His circle already and those who were His mission field.
- C.** The big picture is that WE WIN! **Claim** the win now in all areas of our lives.
- D.** Allow fellow believers the same **grace** that we have received from God.
- E.** Pause and ask the Holy Spirit where He wants you to **start**.