

The Ministry of Jesus Christ

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I. Introduction.

A. Text: Romans 15:14-33.

B. The ministry is committed to all believers, not just the clergy.

II. The ministry of reminding other Christians.

A. Paul was convinced that the Romans' hearts were right.

B. He was also convinced that their heads were right as well--they acted intelligently.

C. They were able to instruct one another showing signs of maturity.

D. Despite all of this, they all needed the ministry of reminding by the Apostle because they were apt to forget.

E. Paul was especially concerned the believers were not trying to please God by depending upon the Spirit alone.

1. Acceptable service is relying upon God.

2. We continually need this reminder.

3. The Christian life is recognizing what we were made to be and being that.

III. The ministry of reconciling.

A. Paul had the heart of a pioneer. (Isaiah 52)

B. Whether one fulfills the pioneer spirit or not, Christ must be at work in the believer and he must not be trying to please Him in his own effort.

C. Christ within is an impulse that compels us to minister.

IV. The ministry of relief.

V. Paul's prayer.

A. He asks that he would be delivered from the nonbelievers in Jerusalem.

B. He asks that his service would be acceptable to the saints.

C. Prayer is mysterious, but we know that Paul highly valued the prayers of others for him.

Application questions:

1. What is the ministry of reminding? Why is it important?

2. How should the relationship between the healthy believer and the Holy Spirit be characterized according to Paul?

3. Why is it wrong for a believer to try to please God through his own efforts? Explain.
