

**The Ministry of the Word**

Romans 15:1-14

In Romans 15 the fellowship of the church is pictured as people who are committed to one another's care. They bear each other's weaknesses, seeking to build each other up (vs. 1-2). They try to be like Christ toward each other (vs. 3). The church should be a like-minded people through the influence of Christ's Spirit and God's Word. Strength and comfort should permeate the atmosphere, as people unite to glorify God (vs. 4-7). Joy and peace should also dominate the fellowship, as believers center themselves in the teaching of God's word (vs. 13). Each believer should do his/her part to share and to give counsel to others (vs. 14). Let's pursue some constructive thoughts about ministering "the words of the wise" (Ecclesiastes 12:11).

**The Value of the Word of God****II Timothy 3:15-17**

- God's Word makes us wise unto salvation (vs. 15 cp. James 1:18; I Peter 1:23-25).
- God's Word is divine. It is inspired of God / God-breathed (vs. 16 cp. Isaiah 55:8-11; 66:1-2; I Corinthians 2:9-16).
- God's Word is profitable (vs.16 cp. Isaiah 48:17; II Timothy 2:14-17; I Timothy 6:3-6).

Doctrine = "teaching"

It is teaching with authority and requires compliance (Romans 6:17)

Reproof = "rebuke for wrong behavior"

Only through Scripture do we have the right to intervene with authority (II Timothy 4:2).

Correction = "to restore to a right position" (i.e. something fallen is set back upright)

After rebuke comes help, getting people back on the right path (Galatians 6:1-2).

Instruction in Righteousness = "positive training in godly behavior"

As children must be trained, so we must all be under the steady instruction of God's Word (Titus 2:1-10).

- God's Word completely equips us to become mature Christians and to do His will (II Timothy 3:17; Colossians 2:10; Philippians 1:11; 4:13 cp. Ephesians 4:11-15; John 15:1-8).