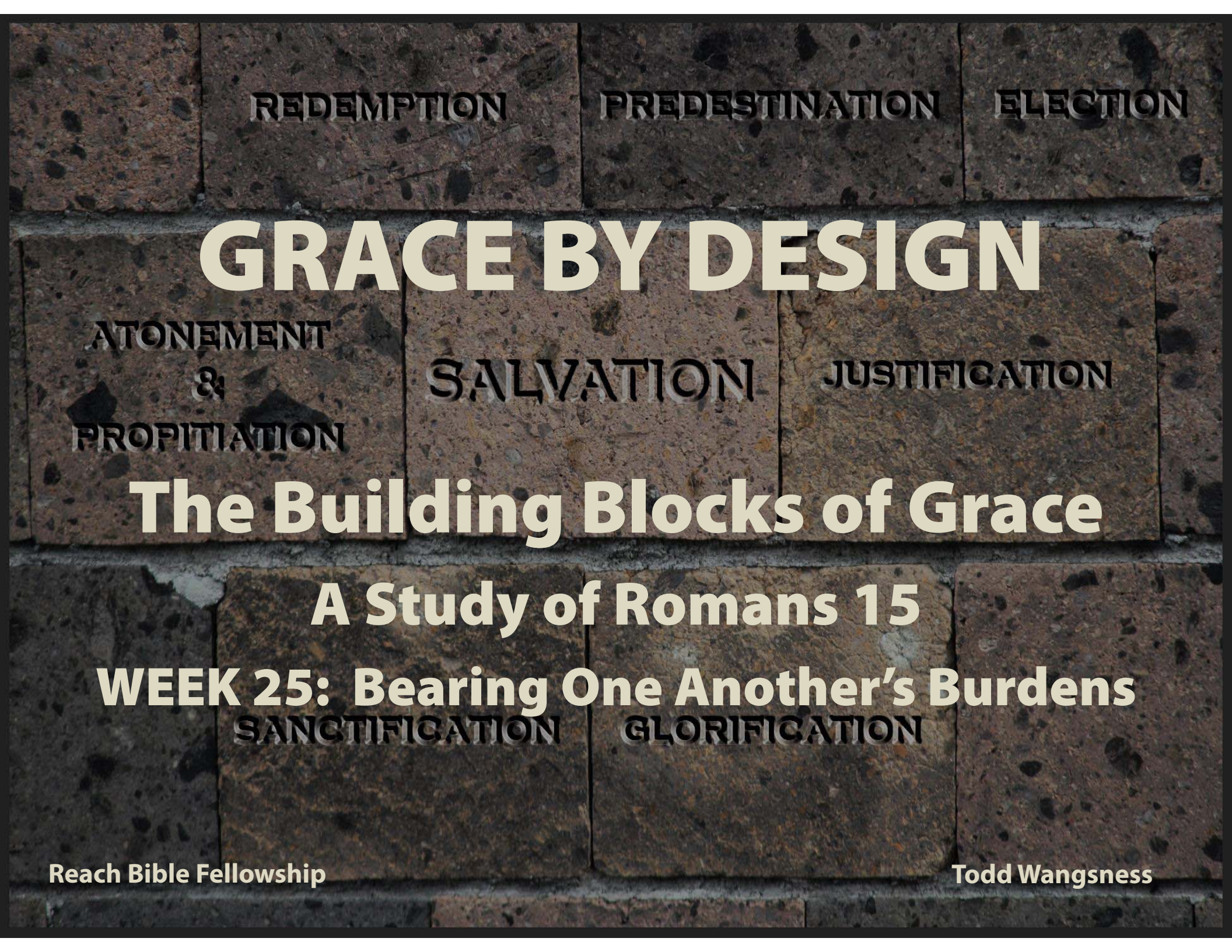

REDEMPTION
PREDESTINATION
ELECTION
GRACE BY DESIGN
ATONEMENT & PROPITIATION
SALVATION
JUSTIFICATION
The Building Blocks of Grace
A Study of Romans 15
WEEK 25: Bearing One Another's Burdens
SANCTIFICATION
GLORIFICATION
Reach Bible Fellowship
Todd Wangsness

# Grace By Design: Study Outline

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|---|---|---|
| Week 1: | Romans | Overview of Grace and Salvation |
| Week 2: | Rom 1:1 – 1:17 | Introduction to Romans |
| Week 3: | Rom 1:18 – 2:16 | Justification – Ignorance is not an Excuse |
| Week 4: | Rom 2:17 – 3:20 | Justification – Knowledge isn't Good Enough |
| Week 5: | Rom. 3:21 – 3:24 | Justification – Righteousness of God Revealed 1 |
| Week 6: | Rom. 3:25 – 3:31 | Justification – Righteousness of God Revealed 2 |
| Week 7: | Rom. 4:1 – 4:25 | Justification – Faith vs the Law |
| Week 8: | Rom. 5:1 – 5:11 | Sanctification – Peace with God 1 |
| Week 9: | Rom. 5:12 – 5:21 | Sanctification – Peace with God 2 |
| Week 10: | Rom. 6:1 – 6:14 | Sanctification – The Christian's Struggle with Sin 1 |
| Week 11: | Rom. 6:15 – 6:23 | Sanctification – The Christian's Struggle with Sin 2 |
| Week 12: | Rom. 7:1 – 7:25 | Sanctification – The Law Can't Save (But the Spirit Can!) |
| Week 13: | Rom. 8:1 – 8:17 | Sanctification – Life in the Spirit |
| Week 14: | Rom. 8:18 – 8:30 | Glorification – From Suffering to Glory |
| Week 15: | Rom. 8:31 – 8:39 | Glorification – God's Everlasting Love |
| Week 16: | Rom. 9:1 – 9:33 | Israel's Rejection and God's Purpose |
| Week 17: | Rom. 10:1 – 10:13 | Israel and the Mystery of the Church 1 |
| Week 18: | Rom. 10:14 – 10:21 | Israel and the Mystery of the Church 2 |
| Week 19: | Rom. 11:1 – 11:36 | The Salvation of the Jewish people |
| Week 20: | Rom. 12:1 – 12:2 | Living the Transformed Life |
| Week 21: | Rom. 12:3– 12:8 | Gifts of the Spirit |
| Week 22: | Rom. 12:9– 12:21 | The Christian Walk |
| Week 23: | Rom. 13:1 – 13:14 | Love Fulfills the Law |
| Week 24: | Rom. 14:1 – 14:21 | Not Judging the Weak in Faith |
| **Week 25:** | **Rom. 15:1 – 15:25** | **Bearing One Another's Burdens** |
| Week 26: | Rom. 16:1 – 16:25 | Conclusion and closing remarks |

# Grace By Design: Bearing One Another's Burdens

## Notable quotes on Romans Chapter 15

*"Christ did not receive us because we were perfect... But, in loving condescension covering our faults, and seeking our good, he welcomed us to his heart; so, in the same way, and with the same purpose, let us receive one another."*

- **Charles Spurgeon**

*"This joy and peace seem to be the same as in Romans 14:17. Concord, union, and mutual enjoyment, are graces which come by believing, or by faith, as well as concord or peace with God, and its accompanying joy; and these graces have no doubt an influence on hope, so as to make it brighter and stronger, when they are produced by the Holy Spirit."*

- **John Calvin**

*Instead of letting these issues about disputable things divide Christians (especially making a division between Jew and Gentile), we should receive one another just as Christ received us – in the terms of pure grace, knowing yet bearing with our faults."*

- **Matthew Henry**

# Grace By Design: Bearing One Another's Burdens

## Romans Chapter 15 Overview

- **Verses 1-6: Bearing with One Another**
  - **Paul urges believers who are strong in faith to support those who are weaker, prioritizing their needs over personal desires. The goal is to build up the Christian community through love and unity.**

- **Verses 7-13: Christ's Ministry to Jews and Gentiles**
  - **Paul calls for mutual acceptance among believers, mirroring Christ's acceptance of both Jews and Gentiles.**

- **Verses 14-21: Paul's Ministry and Mission**
  - **Paul reflects on his role as an apostle to the Gentiles, expressing confidence in the Roman believers' goodness and knowledge.**

- **Verses 22-33: Paul's Travel Plans**
  - **Paul shares his plans to visit Rome enroute to Spain, after delivering a financial contribution to the poor believers in Jerusalem.**

# Grace By Design: Bearing One Another's Burdens

## Bearing with One Another

*15:1-3* *We then who are strong ought to bear with the scruples of the weak, and not to please ourselves. 2 Let each of us please his neighbor for his good, leading to edification. 3 For even Christ did not please Himself; but as it is written, "The reproaches of those who reproached You fell on Me."*

- **"Scruples": Greek '*asthenēma*'. Error arising from weakness of mind; infirmity of conscience.**
- **Strong believers understand that certain practices are legitimate for believers in light of their faith**
- **The stronger are to bear the weaknesses of their brethren**
  - **We're not to merely tolerate them … but to make these weaknesses our own!**
  - **To demonstrate a loving, respectful attitude in imitation of Jesus Christ, who Himself carried our infirmities**
  - ***Eph 5:1-2 "Therefore be imitators of God as dear children. 2 And walk in love, as Christ also has loved us and given Himself for us, an offering and a sacrifice to God for a sweet-smelling aroma."***

# Grace By Design: Bearing One Another's Burdens

## Bearing with One Another

*15:4-6* ***For whatever things were written before were written for our learning, that we through the patience and comfort of the Scriptures might have hope. 5 Now may the God of patience and comfort grant you to be <u>like-minded toward one another</u>, according to Christ Jesus, 6 that you may with one mind and one mouth glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ.***

- **All believers have the same hope, which we receive through perseverance and the encouragement of the Scriptures**
- **The common hope we have, whether strong or weak, is to produce a unity that will not be disrupted by non-moral issues that do not affect salvation**
- **"like-minded" – Paul is not saying we are to be of the same opinion in all things**
  - **Rather, he is saying we are to be in <u>harmony</u> with one another, promoting unity of the faith**
  - **Non-moral issues have the capacity to divide the church**
  - **These issues are NEVER more important than unity and harmony in the Body of Christ!**

# Grace By Design: Bearing One Another's Burdens

**What are some common 'non-moral' issues that can divide us?**

- Eschatology (end-times prophecies)
  - Pre-millennialism, post-millennialism, amillennialism
  - Pre-tribulation, post-tribulation, mid-tribulation, pre-wrath
  - The timing of certain prophecies (Gog/Magog war, etc.)
- Creation
  - Young earth/universe vs old earth/universe
    - Seven literal days of creation vs the Gap theory vs seven epochs of creation
- Spiritual gifts
- Armenianism vs Calvinism
- Predestination vs God's Foreknowledge (or God's Sovereignty vs Man's Freewill)
- Eternal Security (OSAS) vs No Eternal Security (NOSAS)
- Consumption of alcoholic beverages, dancing, playing cards, etc.
- The music we listen to
- Applicability of the Law on the New Testament believer
- Observance (or non-observance) of certain days
- … and the list goes on and on

# Grace By Design: Bearing One Another's Burdens

## Christ's Ministry to Jews and Gentiles

*15:7-9a* ***Therefore receive one another, just as Christ also received us, to the glory of God. 8 Now I say that Jesus Christ has become a servant to the circumcision for the truth of God, to confirm the promises made to the fathers, 9 and that the Gentiles might glorify God for His mercy ..."***

- **"*Therefore* …": Paul concludes the point he has been making since Romans 14:1**
- **He states that – since Jesus Christ has accepted both the weaker and stronger among us – we must accept each other as well!**

# Grace By Design: Bearing One Another's Burdens

- *"to confirm the promises made to the fathers"*
  - The sign and seal of the Abrahamic Covenant was circumcision
  - Consequently, Jesus ministry was in relation to the Abrahamic Covenant
    - Jesus submitted to the obligations of that covenant, including being circumcised and keeping the Law

- *"that the Gentiles might glorify God for His mercy"*
  - Jesus also fulfilled the portions of the Abrahamic Covenant that pertained to the Gentiles
  - *Gen 12:3 "I will bless those who bless you, and I will curse him who curses you; and in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed."*
  - God promises to bless those that bless Israel, and to curse those who curse Israel
  - The physical blessings in the covenant only pertain to the nation of Israel
    - Promises of race (land)
  - However, the spiritual blessings apply to all people (Jews and Gentiles)
    - Promises of grace (Abrahamic Covenant foreshadowed the New Covenant) as foretold in Jer 31:31

# Grace By Design: Bearing One Another's Burdens

## Christ's Ministry to Jews and Gentiles

***15:9b-12*** ***"… as it is written: "For this reason I will confess to You among the Gentiles, And sing to Your name." 10 And again he says: "Rejoice, O Gentiles, with His people!" 11 And again: "Praise the Lord, all you Gentiles! Laud Him, all you peoples!" 12 And again, Isaiah says: "There shall be a root of Jesse; And He who shall rise to reign over the Gentiles, In Him the Gentiles shall hope."***

- **The OT quotes Paul mentions clarify that God ALWAYS intended that the Gentiles would come to saving faith in Jesus Christ**
  - **Although the OT is silent regarding the "mystery of the church", Paul plainly shows that it was God's purpose all along to include Gentiles in His plan for salvation!**
  - ***"The Old Testament is in the New revealed … and the New Testament is in the Old concealed!"***

# Grace By Design: Bearing One Another's Burdens

*15:13 Now may the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.*

- **When believers worship and fellowship IN UNITY despite our differences in non-moral issues, that brings glory to God!**
- **God is glorified in our diversity when we dwell together in unity, irrespective of our differences, whether differing views, social status, race, etc.**
- **God promises that we will abound in HOPE through the POWER of the Holy Spirit as we dwell in unity and harmony!**

# Grace By Design: Bearing One Another's Burdens

*15:14 Now I myself am confident concerning you, my brethren, that you also are full of goodness, filled with all knowledge, able also to admonish one another.*

- **Paul expresses his confidence that the church in Rome consisted of mature believers that were "full of goodness", "filled with knowledge", and "able to admonish one another"**
  - **Even though he had not met any of the brethren yet at that point**

# Grace By Design: Bearing One Another's Burdens

*15:15-17 Nevertheless, brethren, I have written more boldly to you on some points, as reminding you, because of the grace given to me by God, 16 that I might be a minister of Jesus Christ to the Gentiles, ministering the gospel of God, that the offering of the Gentiles might be acceptable, sanctified by the Holy Spirit. 17 Therefore I have reason to glory in Christ Jesus in the things which pertain to God.*

- **Paul reminds them of his apostolic authority, and on that basis, has presented the arguments for grace within the book of Romans quite boldly**
- **The church in Rome was made up of primarily Gentiles**
- **He stresses that his calling was as the Apostle to the Gentile believers**
- **Paul was immensely successful in his calling**
- **He established a plethora of churches throughout the region**
- **He gave all glory to the Lord Jesus Christ for his ministry!**

# Grace By Design: Bearing One Another's Burdens

*15:18-21 For I will not dare to speak of any of those things which Christ has not accomplished through me, in word and deed, to make the Gentiles obedient— 19 in mighty signs and wonders, by the power of the Spirit of God, so that from Jerusalem and round about to Illyricum I have fully preached the gospel of Christ. 20 And so I have made it my aim to preach the gospel, not where Christ was named, lest I should build on another man's foundation, 21 but as it is written: "To whom He was not announced, they shall see; And those who have not heard shall understand."*

- **Paul resolved to not speak of anything other than what Jesus Christ had accomplished through him**
- **His goal was singular … the obedience of the Gentile believers**
- **"signs and wonders": Paul emphasizes that the miracles performed by Paul were done by and through the power of the Holy Spirit**
- **The miracles were proof that of Paul's authority and apostleship through the Lord**
- **His aim was to preach the gospel to areas that had not yet been visited by other apostles**
- **The apostles' ministry was pioneer the word of God into new areas**
  - **Our commission as New Testament believers is to build upon the foundation established by the apostles**

# Grace By Design: Bearing One Another's Burdens

*15:22-29 For this reason I also have been much hindered from coming to you. 23 But now no longer having a place in these parts, and having a great desire these many years to come to you, 24 whenever I journey to Spain, I shall come to you. For I hope to see you on my journey, and to be helped on my way there by you, if first I may enjoy your company for a while. 25 But now I am going to Jerusalem to minister to the saints. 26 For it pleased those from Macedonia and Achaia to make a certain contribution for the poor among the saints who are in Jerusalem. 27 It pleased them indeed, and they are their debtors. For if the Gentiles have been partakers of their spiritual things, their duty is also to minister to them in material things. 28 Therefore, when I have performed this and have sealed to them this fruit, I shall go by way of you to Spain. 29 But I know that when I come to you, I shall come in the fullness of the blessing of the gospel of Christ."*

- **Paul describes the reason that he had not yet visited Rome was that he was "hindered"**
- **He promised that he would come to see them on his way to Spain, which – at that time – was the western frontier of the Roman empire**

# Grace By Design: Bearing One Another's Burdens

*15:30-33 Now I beg you, brethren, through the Lord Jesus Christ, and through the love of the Spirit, that you strive together with me in prayers to God for me, 31 that I may be delivered from those in Judea who do not believe, and that my service for Jerusalem may be acceptable to the saints, 32 that I may come to you with joy by the will of God, and may be refreshed together with you. 33 Now the God of peace be with you all. Amen.*

- **Paul requests the believers in Rome to pray for him … to "strive" together with him in prayer**
  - **Prayer is a pure act of faith**
  - **If we don't believe God hears our prayers, why would we pray?**
  - **By asking the believers to "strive together" with him, Paul is clearly pointing out that prayer is our battleground**
  - **We – as a church – move forward on our knees!**
  - **Prayer is how we wage war in the spirit dimension!**

# Grace By Design: Bearing One Another's Burdens

## Questions to Ponder

1. What is our obligation as believers when differences between believers arise?
   - Even if you are willing to "dwell in unity", what if the other believer is not?
2. If you are in a church denomination that begins to advocate for doctrines that are clearly outside of God's commands, i.e., allowing LGBTQ+ pastors, advocating certain charismatic church practices (grave-soaking, kundalini), etc., what should you do in that situation?
   - What if the church has a music publishing label that has many "great" songs under their name? Should we continue to listen to their music?
3. Do we have true apostles in the church today?
4. Do we have true prophets in the church today?
5. Isn't God going to accomplish His Will irrespective of whether we pray or not?
   - In what ways can we expect God to answer our prayers … are we attempting to change His mind?