

The Marks of a Strong Fellowship Within the Church

Romans 15: 01–13

1. *Mark 1:*

The strong bear the weaknesses of the weak

- a. How:
By not pleasing oneself,
but one's neighbour -
focusing on his good and edification
- b. The pattern,
the supreme example:
Christ

2. *Mark 2:*

Everyone studies the Scriptures

3. *Mark 3:*

Everyone works for harmony

- a. How:
By prayer and relying upon God
(note that Paul is praying here)
- b. The pattern:
Christ
- c. The purpose:
To glorify God with one heart
and one mouth

4. *Mark 4:*

Everyone accepts one another without discrimination

- a. The pattern:
Christ, who accepted us all
 - 1) Christ accepted the Jews
and ministered to them
 - 2) Christ accepted the Gentiles
- b. The Scriptures prove the point
 - 1) The Psalms predicted their
acceptance, Psa. 18:49
 - 2) Moses predicted their acceptance,
Deu. 32:43

- 1 We who are strong
ought to bear with the failings of the weak
and not to please ourselves.
- 2 Each of us should please his neighbour
for his good,
to build him up.
- 3 For even Christ did not please himself
but, as it is written:
“The insults of those who insult you have fallen on me.”
- 4 For everything that was written in the past
was written to teach us,
so that through endurance
and the encouragement of the Scriptures
we might have hope.
- 5 May the God who gives endurance and encouragement
give you a spirit of unity among yourselves
as you follow Christ Jesus,
- 6 So that with one heart and mouth
you may glorify the God
and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ.
- 7 Accept one another, then,
just as Christ accepted you,
in order to bring praise to God.
- 8 For I tell you
that Christ has become a servant of the Jews
on behalf of God's truth,
to confirm the promises made to the patriarchs
- 9 So 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.”
- 10 Again, it says,
“Rejoice, O Gentiles, with his people.”

<p>3) The Psalms again predicted their acceptance, Psa. 117:1</p> <p>4) Isaiah predicted their acceptance, Isa. 11:1, 10</p> <p>5. Mark 5: <i>Everyone is filled by the God of hope</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">a. Not with division or maliceb. With joy, peace and hopec. Source: The Holy Spirit	<p>11 And again, “Praise the Lord, all you Gentiles, and sing praises to him, all you peoples.”</p> <p>12 And again, Isaiah says, “The Root of Jesse will spring up, one who will arise to rule over the nations; the Gentiles will hope in him.”</p> <p>13 May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in him, so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.</p>
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