

# ***Forerunners for Christ Los Angeles***

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February 6, 2024 – Praying the Apostolic Prayers – Erlinda Cruz

## ***Understanding the Context to Paul's Prayers in Romans 15 - Part 2***

Paul prayed that God would grant unity to the saints as they were filled with joy, peace, and hope (Romans 15:5-6, 13).

We gain understanding by seeing this prayer in the context of the section it is in (Romans 14:1-15:13). In this section, Paul taught kingdom principles to help believers honor one another when holding different views and convictions on various issues. There are truths and commands that the Scripture emphasizes and makes clear—these are of primary importance and must be honored. Other issues are not directly commanded but implied and thus applied differently by believers (Matthew 23:23).

“Receive one who is weak in the faith, but not to disputes [to argue with] over doubtful things. For one believes he may eat all things, but he who is weak [uninformed] eats only vegetables. Let not him who eats despise him who does not eat and let not him who does not eat judge him who eats; for God has received him... One person esteems one day above another; another esteems every day alike. Let each be fully convinced in his own mind... But why do you judge your brother? Or why do you show contempt for your brother? For we shall all stand before the judgment seat of Christ... each of us shall give account of himself to God. Therefore let us not judge one another... but rather resolve this, not to put a stumbling block... in our brother’s way.”

Romans 14:1-13

Here’s some point of emphasis:

1. Paul highlighted two issues that the law of Moses commanded—to abstain from certain meats that were unclean and to observe special days faithfully. The ceremonial rituals that God established through Moses were no longer commanded, for Jesus is the fulfillment of them.
2. There were more Gentile believers than Jewish in the first century Church. Most were unfamiliar with the law of Moses—its rituals, animal sacrifices, unclean things, special days, etc. Many devout Jews who came to a saving knowledge of Jesus had deep convictions about keeping the laws of Moses. There was great conflict over these issues in the early Church (Acts 15).

The issue is how we relate to people as we observe their wrong views, failures, and deficiencies. Father we pray for a heart that understands differences among ourselves. But to remain faithful to His Word and His finished work and His promises of returning back to us to fulfill His covenant.