

Forerunners for Christ Los Angeles

February 7, 2024 – Praying the Apostolic Prayers – Erlinda Cruz

Understanding the Context to Paul's Prayers in Romans 15 - Part 3

(Fasting Wednesday)

Paul prayed that God would grant unity to the saints as they were filled with joy, peace, and hope (Romans 15:5-6, 13). These are God's ideas for which He wants us to contend in prayer.

“Now may the God of patience and comfort grant you to be like-minded toward one another... that you may with one mind and one mouth glorify the God... Therefore receive one another, just as Christ also received us, to the glory of God... Now may the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, that you may abound in hope...”

Romans 15:5-7, 13

Lifting the weak: Paul exhorted them to accept those who were weak in faith without seeing it as an occasion to win an argument with them—that is, to “dispute over doubtful things” not clearly stated in Scripture. Weak in faith speaks of being imperfectly instructed in the real meaning of liberty in Christ.

“Receive one who is weak in the faith, but not to disputes over doubtful things.”

Romans 14:1

“Accept... [those] faith is weak, without quarreling over disputable matters.”

Romans 14:1 NIV

There were rituals and practices commanded by the law of Moses that are no longer required.

“Stand fast therefore in the liberty by which Christ has made us free, and do not be entangled again with a yoke of bondage.”

Galatians 5:1

“So let no one judge you in food or in drink, or regarding a festival or a new moon or sabbaths, which are a shadow of things to come, but the substance is of Christ... Why... do you subject yourselves to regulations—'Do not touch, do not taste, do not handle'...”

Colossians 2:16-21

“It was symbolic... fleshly ordinances imposed until the time of reformation.”

Hebrews 9:9-10

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Examples of issues that some sincerely debate and break relationship with one another over:

Varying political views, wearing of masks (during COVID), use of vaccinations, the use of fire arms to protect life in the face of violence, civil disobedience, varying standards of entertainment (music, movies), use of tobacco, wine, or legal drugs, lifestyles (size of house, type of car, etc.), modesty, (clothing, makeup, jewelry etc.), domestic issues (home schooling, disciplining children, birth control), environmental concerns (fuel, recycling), various medical procedures, etc.

Paul's main point in his instruction and prayer is that we must speak to each other with humility, honor, and a spirit of patience to enlighten the other believer rather than win our argument.

The primary issues in God's kingdom are righteousness, peace, and joy. The gospel of the kingdom does not consist of making secondary issues primary, such as abstaining from meat and drink.

"...the kingdom of God is not eating and drinking, but righteousness and peace and joy in the Holy Spirit... Let us pursue the things which... edify... It is good neither to eat meat nor drink wine nor do anything by which your brother stumbles... or is made weak."

Romans 14:17-21

Today being fasting Wednesday, let us pray and remember those believers who need to be strong in the Lord. Pray that they may hunger to seek the Lord. Let us cover them with our love in prayer.

One prophecy I heard was that "those who are weak in their faith or those deceived and are just religious but have no relationship with Jesus and not coming under the leadership of Holy Spirit will be candidates to follow the antichrist seduction."