

ROMANS

TRANSFORMED!

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MUSIC: SHAWN & PATI HOELSCH

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Paul's Blueprint for a Lifetime of Fruitful, Satisfying Ministry
Romans 15:14-21

An effective servant shows intentional commitment to defined goals.

1. Paul worked to develop maturity in the believer's life, with a focus on three major arenas.

Rom. 15:14 *I myself am satisfied about you, my brothers, that you yourselves are full of goodness, filled with all knowledge and able to instruct one another.*

- a. Character/Integrity (...full of goodness...)

1Tim. 4:12 *Let no one despise you for your youth, but set the believers an example in speech, in conduct, in love, in faith, in purity.*

- b. Pursuit of God's Truth (...filled with all knowledge...)

Col. 1:28 *Him we proclaim, warning everyone and teaching everyone with all wisdom, that we may present everyone mature in Christ. 29* *For this I toil, struggling with all his energy that he powerfully works within me.*

- c. Ministry Skill (...able to instruct...)

Heb. 5:12a *For though by this time you ought to be teachers, you need someone to teach you again the basic principles of the oracles of God.*

2. Paul's desire for fruit drove his boldness.

Rom. 15:15 *But on some points I have written to you very boldly by way of reminder, because of the grace given me by God 16* *to be a minister of Christ Jesus to the Gentiles in the priestly service of the gospel of God, so that the offering of the Gentiles may be acceptable, sanctified by the Holy Spirit.*

An effective servant experiences both satisfaction and humility.

1. Paul's work produced personal excitement and satisfaction.

Rom. 15:17 *In Christ Jesus, then, I have reason to be proud of my work for God.*

2. Yet, he understood that apart from Christ he could accomplish nothing.

Rom 15:18 *For I will not venture to speak of anything except what Christ has accomplished through me to bring the Gentiles to obedience—by word and deed, 19 by the power of signs and wonders, by the power of the Spirit of God—so that from Jerusalem and all the way around to Illyricum I have fulfilled the ministry of the gospel of Christ;*

1Cor. 12:4 *Now there are varieties of gifts, but the same Spirit; 5 and there are varieties of service, but the same Lord; 6 and there are varieties of activities, but it is the same God who empowers them all in everyone.*

An effective servant understands how and where their gifting will be most effective.

Rom. 15:20 *and thus I make it my ambition to preach the gospel, not where Christ has already been named, lest I build on someone else's foundation, 21 but as it is written, "Those who have never been told of him will see, and those who have never heard will understand."*

Discussion/Reflection Questions:

1. Who has God brought into your life that you have influence with?
2. How has God equipped you to influence/help/benefit people for the Kingdom (revisit Romans 12:3-6)?
3. Think through how Paul's 3 goals for equipping people (character, pursuit of God's Truth, ministry skill) can be applied in your areas of service.
4. In Christ, you are uniquely gifted and appointed. How does 1 Corinthians 12:4-6 produce both freedom and confidence in your area of ministry?
5. As you consider Paul's blueprint for a lifetime of fruitful and satisfying ministry, consider your own life. Are you serving those in your circle of influence effectively (i.e. fostering character, developing understanding, and service)? How do you know?
6. Paul's gifting motivated him to continually look for new places to serve. In what "uncharted territory" can your gift be exercised?

SONGS

"God Is For Us" – James Ferguson, James Tealy, Jonny Robinson, Rich Thompson, Tiarne Kleyn, Michael Farren, Jesse Reeves

"Found in You" – Paul Baloche, Andi Rozier

"Oh Praise the Name" – Dean Ussher, Marty Sampson, Benjamin Hastings

"Center" – Charlie Hall, Matt Redman

BUDGET

GIVING LAST WEEK: \$20,959.00
WEEKLY NEED: \$34,979.00

YTD GIVING: \$996,281.00
YTD GENERAL NEED: \$1,014,391.00