

# Sermon Notes

## Power of the Word Part 8A

### March 11<sup>th</sup> – 12<sup>th</sup>, 2023

- **Week 8A: Putting Up With Others**
  - o Jesus prayed an amazing prayer in **John 17:20-23**.
    - Jesus is praying for us!! Not just us at Good Hope, or just the AG, or just the coffee and jeans Christians, etc., but for ALL who will believe the message in the future to be one!!
  - o This is a common theme in the Bible. **John 13:34-35, John 10:16, Eph 4:1-6, Phil 2:1-2, etc.**
- Unity in the Body of Christ is not optional...no matter what you've been told.
  - o The Body of Christ is not a particular iteration of Christian Religion: Reformed, Catholic, 1<sup>st</sup> Century, Home Church, etc.
  - o It's all the followers of Jesus together. This is what I take **1 Cor 12:3** to mean.
    - Paul was discussing Spiritual Gifts...a common source of division. So, he was sure to make the point that we are all on the same team even with our differences. **1 Cor 12:3-6**
- Everyday normal Christians seem to understand this better than experts.
  - o This was the case back in Jesus day too. Maybe its because denominational and church leaders can sometimes be motivated by pride and greed to separate themselves out from the rest of the Body.
  - o Whatever it is, it is clear that the followers of Jesus in their great diversity must stand together.
- But, how do we stand together when we are so different?
  - o There is a way...
  - o But first, there are two kinds of "different."
    - 1) There's the good honest differences of opinion, style, and perspective of believers.
      - Years ago, talking to a Lutheran Pastor about prayers in services...
      - What I heard about the "Black Church" vs the "White Church" years ago.
    - 2) Then there's the "Watch out for false prophets" type of different.
      - Your Mark Driscoll or Jesus is coming back on this date type of stuff.
    - It can be hard to tell the difference sometimes...so let's pray for wisdom. **James 1:5**
- Now, how do we stand together when we are the first kind of different?
  - o This is not unity based on style, perspective, or theological opinion,
    - But, unity based on a shared love of the Lord that transcends all that other stuff.
      - Warning: if you love your brand more than God, that's idolatry not Christianity.
  - o Back to the question. There is a clear answer in Romans 14:1-15:7.
    - Let's apply the 4 steps to freedom from **John 8:31-32** to this section of Scripture.
- Let's read the whole thing, then break it down...finishing next week. **Romans 14:1-15:7**
  - o **Romans 14:1-4**
    - (from v1) Who do we accept? Weak faithed believers who follow unnecessary rules.
    - Don't quarrel over disputable matters. What is a disputable matter? EBA bullseye...
- Something really important is **Romans 14:4**. Who makes each of us stand? It's not your awesomeness, it's what Jesus has done for you.
  - o This is the grace of God. Let's receive of that grace and have grace for others.
- Get personal prayer by emailing [prayer@goodhope.ag](mailto:prayer@goodhope.ag).