

An Adequate Ministry

Romans 15:14-16

*I myself am convinced, my brothers and sisters, that **you yourselves are full of goodness, filled with knowledge** and competent to instruct one another. ¹⁵ Yet I have written you **quite boldly on some points to remind you of** them again, because of the grace God gave me ¹⁶ **to be a minister of Christ Jesus to the Gentiles**. He gave me the priestly duty of proclaiming the gospel of God, so that the Gentiles might become an offering acceptable to God, sanctified by the Holy Spirit.*

Good qualities

you yourselves are full of goodness

It was a responsive church reaching out to people who were in need.

Short Comings

Bold reminder of the truth

Rom. 12:2, mind transformed by the Holy Spirit. That's why we come together.

filled with knowledge

This was a church to which Paul did not have to give any new theology. They new the message of the gospel.

Justification by faith, the need for sanctification and they understood the meaning of glorification and of the eternal ages to come.

competent to instruct one another

They were able to counsel one another. The individual members were caring for one another. It was not left to one person only.

to be a minister of Christ Jesus to the Gentiles.

Paul tells them that he feels it as his duty.

so that the Gentiles might become an offering acceptable to God, sanctified by the Holy Spirit.

This is also an area where we have to work on often in church ourselves.

Principles of Paul's Ministry, V17-20

Therefore, I glory in Christ Jesus in my service to God. ¹⁸ I will not venture to speak of anything except what Christ has accomplished through me in leading the Gentiles to obey God by what I have said and done— ¹⁹ by the power of signs and wonders, through the power of the Spirit of God. So, from Jerusalem all the way around to Illyricum, I have fully proclaimed the gospel of Christ. ²⁰ It has always been my ambition to preach the gospel where Christ was not known, so that I would not be building on someone else's foundation.

- 1. Glory in Christ Jesus**
- 2. How to let God work through men**
- 3. Signs and wonders through the power of the Spirit, sign of an apostle**
- 4. Widespread**
- 5. Preach the gospel where Christ was unknown**

How he practiced his ministry, V22-29

But now that there is no more place for me to work in these regions, and since I have been longing for many years to visit you, ²⁴ I plan to do so when I go to Spain. I hope to see you while passing through and to have you assist me on my journey there, after I have enjoyed your company for a while.

Now, however, I am on my way to Jerusalem in the service of the Lord's people there. ²⁶ For Macedonia and Achaia were pleased to make a contribution for the poor among the Lord's people in Jerusalem. ²⁷ They were pleased to do it, and indeed they owe it to them. For if the Gentiles have shared in the Jews' spiritual blessings, they owe it to the Jews to share with them their material blessings. ²⁸ So after I have completed this task and have made sure that they have received this contribution, I will go to Spain and visit you on the way. ²⁹ I know that when I come to you, I will come in the full measure of the blessing of Christ.

V24, teamwork

V26, honors commitments

V27, principle of sharing with the church in Jerusalem

The power behind his ministry, V30-33

V30-33, I urge you, brothers and sisters, by our Lord Jesus Christ and by the love of the Spirit, to join me in my struggle by praying to God for me. ³¹ Pray that I may be kept safe from the unbelievers in Judea and that the contribution I take to Jerusalem may be favorably received by the Lord's people there, ³² so that I may come to you with joy, by God's will, and in your company, be refreshed. ³³ The God of peace be with you all. Amen.

- 1. Prayer is born of the Spirit of God.**
- 2. Life is a struggle and Paul sees prayer as a way of fighting in that combat.**
- 3. To be kept safe from unbelievers and that the contribution will be acceptable by the Lord's people.**
- 4. The outcome of the prayer, that he will be refreshed together with them.**

All in the Family, Romans 16

- ❑ Greetings to brothers and sisters in Rome, 16 verses
- ❑ Warning about phony Christians
- ❑ Greetings from brothers who were with Paul

Warnings, V17-20

*I urge you, brothers and sisters, to watch out for **those who cause divisions** and **put obstacles in your way that are contrary to the teaching you have learned**. Keep away from them. ¹⁸ For such people are not serving our Lord Christ, but their own appetites. By **smooth talk and flattery** they deceive the minds of naive people. ¹⁹ Everyone has heard about your obedience, so I rejoice because of you; but I want you to be wise about what is good, and innocent about what is evil.*

²⁰ The God of peace will soon crush Satan under your feet.

The grace of our Lord Jesus be with you.

Mystery, V25-27, Summary of Romans

*Now to him who is able to establish you in accordance **with my gospel, the message I proclaim about Jesus Christ, in keeping with the revelation of the mystery hidden for long ages past,** ²⁶ but now revealed and made known through the prophetic writings by the command of the eternal God, **so that all the Gentiles might come to the obedience that comes from**^[a] **faith**— ²⁷ to the only wise God be glory forever through Jesus Christ! Amen.*

What is the Mystery? Col. 1:24-27; Eph. 3:2-6