

10.

Romans 15:14-21

Be Faithful

The Christian message is counter-cultural. And there are many things which mainstream culture (“the world”, see Jn. 14:17; 15:19) approves of — and even encourages — which the Gospel confronts and condemns. This is why sharing the Gospel with those who are unfamiliar with it comes with many challenges and often much resistance.

1. Based on Romans 15:14, how many positive attributes does Paul credit the Romans with?

2. Paul states that despite these positive attributes, it was necessary for him to write *boldly* to the Romans “by way of reminder” (Rom. 15:15). What is it within this epistle that Paul might have considered that he was being very boldly about?

Sanctifying involves becoming *holy*. This involves becoming increasingly dedicated to God.

3. Why then, noting Romans 15:16, would Paul hope that his ministry to the Gentiles might prove to be *acceptable*?
 - a. Gentile culture in Paul’s day was particularly ungodly.
 - b. God was reluctant to admit Gentiles into the Kingdom of Heaven.
 - c. Gentiles did not know how to the rules of the Old Testament.

4. Since boasting is wrong (note Psalm 12:3; 75:4; 1Cor. 5:6), why was Paul right to *boast* in Romans 15:17? (Note also Jer. 9:24; 1Cor. 1:31)

5. When Paul preached to Gentiles, how did many of them respond to the Gospel he preached, and what did Paul claim was the cause for this? (Romans 15:18)

6. How did Paul say he was able to 'fulfil his ministry' (Rom. 15:19) and what lessons can we learn from this?

7. How did Paul decide where to minister next? (Rom. 15:20-21) Does this apply to us today for where we might plant a new church?

Amen.