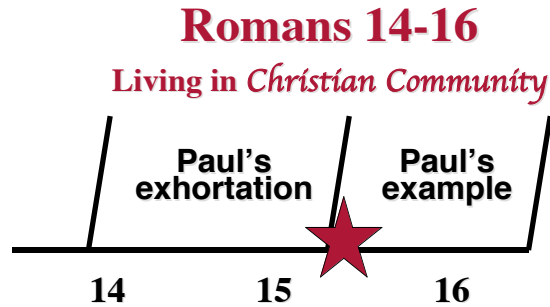
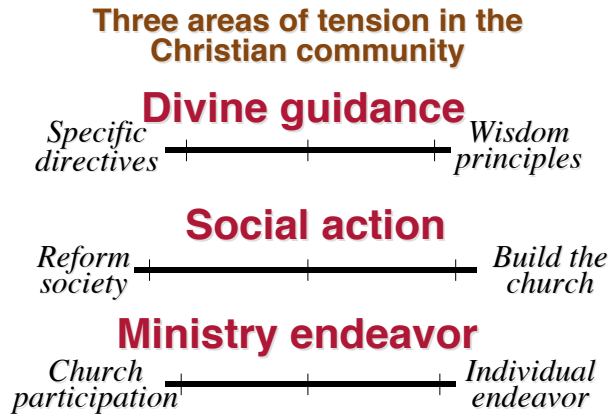


## Romans 15:22 –32

### Ministry priorities



### Romans 15:22-32

“<sup>22</sup> For this reason I have often been hindered from coming to you; <sup>23</sup> but now, with no further place for me in these regions, and since I have had for many years a longing to come to you <sup>24</sup> whenever I go to Spain -- for I hope to see you in passing, and to be helped on my way there by you, when I have first enjoyed your company for a while -- <sup>25</sup> but now, I am going to Jerusalem serving the saints. <sup>26</sup> For Macedonia and Achaia have been pleased to make a contribution for the poor among the saints in Jerusalem.

“<sup>27</sup> Yes, they were pleased {to do so,} and they are indebted to them. For if the Gentiles have shared in their spiritual things, they are indebted to minister to them also in material things. <sup>28</sup> Therefore, when I have finished this, and have put my seal on this fruit of theirs, I will go on by way of you to Spain. <sup>29</sup> And I know that when I come to you, I will come in the fullness of the blessing of Christ.”

“<sup>30</sup> Now I urge you, brethren, by our Lord Jesus Christ and by the love of the Spirit, to strive together with me in your prayers to God for me, <sup>31</sup> that I may be delivered from those who are disobedient in Judea, and {that} my service for Jerusalem may prove acceptable to the saints; <sup>32</sup> so that I may come to you in joy by the will of God and find {refreshing} rest in your company. <sup>33</sup> Now the God of peace be with you all. Amen.”

### Two ways of understanding

Decision making

*We should expect God to reveal His perfect will to us.*      *We must seek the way of wisdom in decisions.*

and the will of God

## 1. How did Paul make decisions?

“<sup>22</sup> For this **reason** I have often been **hindered** from coming to you; <sup>23</sup> but now, with no further place for me in these regions, and since I have had for many years a **longing** to come to you <sup>24</sup> **whenever** I go to Spain -- for I **hope** to see you in passing, and to be **helped on my way** there by you, when I have first enjoyed your company for a while --”



✓ **Paul teaches us to appeal to wisdom in resolving conflicting issues.**

**Eph. 5:15-16** “Therefore be careful how you walk, not as unwise men, but **as wise**, making the most of your time, because the days are evil.”

**Col. 4:5** “Conduct yourselves **with wisdom** toward outsiders, making the most of the opportunity.”

✓ **The Apostles often did what seemed good in resolving conflicting issues.**

**Acts 15:28-29** “For **it seemed good to the Holy Spirit and to us** to lay upon you no greater burden than these essentials”

✓ **Paul often did what he thought best in resolving conflicting issues.**

**I Thess. 3:1-2** “Therefore when we could endure it no longer, **we thought it best** to be left behind at Athens alone”

✓ **We are sometimes free to do what we want within moral boundaries.**

**I Cor. 7:39-40** “A wife is bound as long as her husband lives; but if her husband is dead, **she is free to be married to whom she wishes, only in the Lord. But in my opinion** she is happier if she remains as she is; and I think that I also have the Spirit of God.”

## Special revelation is special

**Acts 16:10** “And when we had seen the vision, immediately **we** sought to go into Macedonia, **concluding that God had called us** to preach the gospel to them.”

- ✓ **Special revelation was not common even with Apostles.**
- ✓ **Special revelation needs interpretation.**
- ✓ **Special revelation should be notarized by others.**

## 2. How did Paul understand Christian social ethics?

“<sup>25</sup> but now, I am going to Jerusalem serving the saints. <sup>26</sup> For Macedonia and Achaia have been pleased to make a contribution for the poor **among the saints** in Jerusalem.”

- ✓ **Social services start within the Christian Community.**

**Gal.6:10** “while we have opportunity, let us do good to all men, and **especially to those who are of the household of the faith.**”

## Two models of social ethics

### The Incarnation

The Christian is called to reform society.

The Church is at one with the world.

### The Cross

The Christian is called to build the Body of Christ.

The Church stands apart from the world.

“<sup>27</sup> Yes, they were pleased {to do so,} and they are **indebted** to them. For if the Gentiles have shared in their spiritual things, they are **indebted** to minister to them also in material things.”

- ✓ **Social services cannot be separated from spiritual services.**

- ✓ **Social services build cultural bridges.**



“<sup>28</sup> Therefore, when I have finished this, and have put my **seal** on this **fruit** of theirs, I will go on by way of you to Spain. <sup>29</sup> And I know that when I come to you, I will come in the **fullness** of the blessing of Christ.”

- ✓ **Social services are to be made as personal as possible.**
- ✓ **Social services are a sign of the fruit of the Spirit.**

### 3. How did Paul see others participating in his ministry endeavors?

“<sup>30</sup> Now I urge you, brethren, by our Lord Jesus Christ and **by the love of the Spirit**, to **strive together with me** in your prayers to God for me, <sup>31</sup> that I may be delivered from those who are disobedient in Judea, and {that} my service for Jerusalem may prove acceptable to the saints; <sup>32</sup> so that I may **come to you in joy** by the will of God and find {refreshing} **rest in your company**. <sup>33</sup> Now the God of peace be with you all. Amen.”

What would Paul say?

