

The Romans 15 Blueprint for Local Church Life

Romans 15 gives an extraordinary overview and insight into the mission, practices, principles, and priorities of Paul, his team, and the local churches working with him. In this session, we will begin to draw up a list of what they did, how they did it, and what made them so fruitful. We will develop some of these themes more fully in later sessions. The goal in this session is to grasp in broad terms what we can learn from their example and apply it to 21st century local church life.

Mike Frisby was an elder at City Church Cambridge and is a trustee of Relational Mission, a network of churches which is part of the global Newfrontiers family. He uses his teaching and pastoral gifts among the churches, enjoys mentoring younger leaders, and has involvement in cross-cultural training. He has a particular passion for mobilising people for world mission and has written a book for local church leaders “Reaching the Nations – From next door to worlds away”, to equip leaders to identify, recruit, send and support people called to cross-cultural mission.

I. Unity and Maturity

- A. Writing as the mature to the mature
- B. Not arrogant but servant hearted
- C. Attitude of blessing
- D. Not about we are right & you are wrong

II. God’s Global Purposes (v8-12)

- A. One new man in Christ
- B. The goal – ‘ a new tribe on the earth’
- C. Nations in our hearts
- D. He and we will spread out as far as the relationships go (v24)
- E. We do it together – one agenda (v24)

III. Making Disciples Not Just Converts (v14-15)

- A. Character, Knowledge & Skills (v14)

- B. Write boldly on some points (v15)
- C. Disciples self-motivate, but Ephesian 4 ministries are about equipping

IV. Breaking New Ground With the Gospel

- A. Jerusalem to Illyricum (v19)
- B. Priority is gospel and people coming to Christ (v22)
- C. When Gospel and planting done – He will come (v23)

V. Gospel Advance (v18-19)

- A. Words, Works and Wonders

VI. Empowering the Poor (v25-28)

- A. Apostolic function/mandate not a department
- B. Jesus empowered people
- C. Gospel is the greatest empowerment – Jesus cared for the whole person

VII. Friends on the Journey (v24)

- A. Not a headquarters visit – it was friendship
- B. Mutual helping and encouragement
- C. Church is a family not a business

Suggested Readings: See Session 1 Notes