

## A Healthy Church Is a Helping Church!



### “NOT PLEASING OURSELVES!”

- ✓ Bearing the weaknesses of those without strength ...
- ✓ Not pleasing ourselves ...
- ✓ Building up one another ...
- ✓ Instructed by the Word of God ...
- ✓ Encouraged and hopeful ...
- ✓ Living in harmony with one another ...
- ✓ Unconditionally accepting one another ...
- ✓ Living to the Glory of God ...

## A Healthy Church Is a Welcoming Church!



- “We who are strong have an obligation to bear with the failings of the weak, and not to please ourselves” (Romans 15:1).
- The point is that we must constantly seek to do what is for the good of others rather than what is for our own good. **This does not mean that the weak control the church**—that they have only to express a scruple and all rush to conform. **That would mean that the church would be permanently tied to the level of the weak and that life and growth would cease.** Paul is not laying down a rule of conduct but enunciating a principle of tender concern (Leon Morris).

- (Galatians 6:1-3 NLT) Dear brothers and sisters, if another believer is overcome by some sin, you who are godly should gently and humbly help that person back onto the right path. And be careful not to fall into the same temptation yourself. **Share each other's burdens, and in this way obey the law of Christ.** If you think you are too important to help someone, you are only fooling yourself. You are not that important.
- (Philippians 2:3-4 ESV) Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit, but **in humility count others more significant than yourselves.** Let each of you look not only to his own interests, but also to the interests of others.
- (Ephesians 4:29-30 ESV) Let **no corrupting talk** come out of your mouths, but **only such as is good for building up**, as fits the occasion, that it may **give grace** to those who hear. And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, by whom you were sealed for the day of redemption.
- (Ephesians 4:31-32 ESV) Let all **bitterness** and **wrath** and **anger** and **clamor** and **slander be put away from you**, along with all malice. **Be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, as God in Christ forgave you.**

### Old Testament written for our example and instruction ... (See also 1 Corinthians 10:6-12).

- The OT, though no longer a source of direct moral imperative (6:14, 15; 7:4), continues to play a central role in helping Christians to understand the climax of salvation history and their responsibilities as the New Covenant people of God (Douglas Moo).
- Although Christians live under the New Covenant and are not under the authority of the Old Covenant, God's moral law has not changed and all Scripture is of spiritual benefit (John MacArthur).