

Unity and Mission 團結與宣教

Romans 羅馬書 15:1-33

James Barnett 4th September 2022

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I love seeing videos of the strong looking out for the weak. Always warm the heart. The marathon runner whose legs have turned to jelly and the person coming in first returns to help them.

我喜歡看強者照顧弱者的電影。永遠溫暖人心。在馬拉松跑了第一名的人回去幫助那些已精疲力竭的運動員。

They are using their strength to help the weak.

他們用自己的力量幫助弱者。

Just as easily, they could finish the race. No one would think poorly of them if they did not.

同樣容易，他們可以完成比賽。如果他們不這樣做，沒有人會認為他們不好。

Do we use our strength to build up or crush? Do we even see ourselves as strong, or are we expecting someone else to be helping us out?

我們是用我們的力量來建立還是粉碎？我們甚至認為自己很強大，還是我們期待別人幫助我們？

We are all fallen people, strong in different ways. Some physically, others mentally or financially.

我們都是墮落的人，在不同的方面堅強。有些是身體上的，有些是精神上或經濟上的。

The challenge we face is whether we will build up with our strength to only take care of ourselves or use that strength to help others.

我們面臨的挑戰是，我們是否會用自己的力量來建立自己，只照顧自己，還是用這種力量幫助他人。

There is the temptation of not helping the weak because it's hard, slows us down, or we consider ourselves weak, so we don't have space to help them.

有一種誘惑是不幫助弱者，因為它很難，讓我們慢下來，或者我們認為自己很弱，所以我們沒有空間幫助他們。

At its worst, we forget how weak we are before God and how he, in his strength, has saved us.

在最壞的情況下，我們忘記了我們在上帝面前是多麼軟弱，以及他如何憑藉他的力量拯救了我們。

We are coming to the end of the book of Romans. It has taken us on a wonderful journey of God's grace to undeserved people. And how God takes those people and brings down the barriers of Jews and Gentiles to worship together.

我們來到《羅馬書》的結尾了。我們踏上了一段美妙的旅程，上帝的恩典施予不配得的人。以及上帝如何帶領這些人，並消除猶太人和外邦人的阻隔，讓他們一起敬拜。

There is a picture of what it should look like when they gather, where the strong lift and build up the weak and people accept each other. In such a way, it overflows into love for other people. To be people just like Jesus did. And then, see how this plays out not just with individuals but churches.

現在有一張他們聚集時應該是什麼樣子的影像。堅強的人提升和建立不堅強的人和人們相互接納。以這種方式，它溢出對眾人的愛。成為像耶穌那樣的人。然後，看到這不僅對個人而且對教會如何發揮作用。

Our challenge today will be to encourage ourselves that we are already strong and accepted in Jesus and to see how he calls us to lift each other here and across the world.

我們今天的挑戰將是鼓勵自己，我們已經是堅強的人並在耶穌裡被接納，並看看他如何呼召我們在這裡和世界各地互相提升。

1. The Strong and Accepting 堅強的人和彼此接納

Paul calls on the church to be a united community. And he uses two pieces of language here. For the strong to bear with the weak and to accept one another.

保羅呼籲教會成為一個團結的社群。他在這裡使用了兩種語言。讓堅強的人包容分擔不堅強的人，和互相接納。

Please have a look with me at the verse

請和我一起看這節經文

1 We who are strong ought to bear with the failings of the weak and not to please ourselves. 2 Each of us should please our neighbours for their good, to build them up.

1 我們堅強的人應該分擔不堅強的人的軟弱，不求自己的喜悅。2 我們各人務必要讓鄰人喜悅，使他得益處，得造就。

This is the basis for ethics, for thinking about what is right. The people with power must help to build up those who are weak. The strong and powerful aren't to use that power to build themselves up and make them more comfortable.

這是倫理的基礎，去思考什麼是正確的基礎。有權勢的人必須幫助建立沒有權勢的人。堅強和有權勢的人不應用他們的力量來建立自己，讓他們更舒適。

Previously in chapter 14, Aidan preached on last week, Paul taught about relationships within the church, but now he is extending that teaching. He used the word, neighbour, in a similar way to Jesus to speak not just about those directly in my life but those around me. Any and every human being Jesus considered my neighbour (luke 10:25-37)

之前在第 14 章中，艾丹上週講道，保羅教導了關於教會內部的關係，但現在他正在擴展這種教導。他以與耶穌相似的方式使用了「鄰人」這個詞，不僅指直接在我生活中的人，還指在我周圍的人。耶穌視任何人為我的鄰居（《路加福音》10:25-37）

We please our neighbours and look out for their interest in building them up. And this is a picture of discipleship, not one of the constant handouts. The picture is not that the strong stay strong and the weak stay weak. But that the weak are built up to be strong.

我們各人務必要讓鄰人喜悅，使他得益處，得造就。這是一幅門徒訓練的圖畫，而不是不斷的施捨。這幅畫並不是強者保持強，弱者保持弱。而是不堅強的得造就為堅強的。

In particular, Christians were worried about the impact of the food they ate that made them clean or unclean before God. So the strong bear with the weak until they grow in maturity and understanding. 特別是那些擔心他們所吃的食物會影響他們在上帝面前是否潔淨的基督徒。所以堅強的人應該分擔不堅強的人的軟弱，直到他們成熟和理解。

“Building up the weak” looks like understanding them and walking beside them. Particularly with what faith looks like to follow Jesus and live as a Christian.

造就不堅強的人看起來就像理解他們並與他們並肩作戰。特別是在跟隨耶穌並活出基督徒的生命的信心上。

But there are many differences, and Aidan last week reminded us that some issues are worth disputing over (salvation issues) and some are not. But the priority here is that we accept and love people.

但是有很多不同，艾丹上週提醒我們，有些問題值得爭論（救恩問題），有些則不是。但這裡的首要任務是我們接納和愛人。

But we do not get this right all the time.

但我們並非一直都做到這一點。

Years ago, I led a group of year 12 boys in bible study. And a new young man had joined the group from another church. We got to a piece of theology being debated, and the new guy disagreed with everyone, including myself. And I would like to say that I gently led him, patiently heard him over many months, and worked through his struggle.

多年前，我帶領一群 12 年級的男孩學習聖經。一個新的年輕人從另一個教會加入了這個團體。我們討論了一個神學，新來的人不同意每個人，包括我自己。而我想說，我是溫柔地帶領他，耐心地聽他講了好幾個月，與他一起處理他的掙扎。

But unfortunately, I didn't. I was harsh. “It is this way.” “You need to believe it.” And I had all the best arguments and pieces of scripture to back me up. But I didn't bear with the weak to build him up. And so he never returned to that bible study.

但不幸的是，我沒有。我很嚴厲。「就是這樣」，「你需要相信它」。我有所有最好的論據和經文來支持我。但我沒有分擔不堅強的人的軟弱以造就他們。所以他再也沒有回到那個聖經研究。

For us, in this context, when it comes to church and life. There are many different ways we are strong and weak. Mentally, financially, and physically. We have many opportunities to be right or to bear with the weak to see them built up in Christ. One of our favourite things during COVID was handing out food hampers to those sick and isolated.

對我們來說，在這種情況下，當談到教會和生活時。我們有很多不同的方面是堅強和不堅強的。精神上、經濟上和身體上。我們有很多機會去正確地或去分擔軟弱，看到他們在基督裡得造就。在 COVID 期間，我們最喜歡做的事情之一就是向那些生病和孤單的人分發食物籃。

I started weight lifting regularly about a year ago. To actually grow in strength takes the right diet, a lot of stress on the muscle, and time.

大約一年前，我開始定期舉重。要真正增強力量，需要正確的飲食、對肌肉施加很大壓力和時間。

How much more so is a person following Jesus? We must get the diet right from God's word and be willing to walk in discipleship with others until they are built up.

更何況跟隨耶穌的人呢？我們必須從上帝的話語中獲得正確的飲食，並願意與他人一起做門徒，直到他們被建立。

The motive is in verse 3,

第3節指出我們應有的動機，

For even Christ did not please himself but, as it is written: "The insults of those who insult you have fallen on me."

3 因為基督也不求自己的喜悅，如經上所記：「辱罵你的人的辱罵都落在我身上。」

Jesus is both our example and our motivation. Even Christ. Even the eternal second person of the Trinity, the One who deserves of all praise, the very strongest, did not please himself, did not build up his strength or reputation. Instead, he came to serve us, willing to be mocked, tortured, and killed by God's enemies. He did that to serve those around him.

耶穌既是我們的榜樣，也是我們的動力。甚至基督。即便是三位一體的永恆第二位格，當之無愧的最強者，也不求自己的喜悅，沒有建立自己的權力或聲譽。相反，他為服事我們而來，甘願被上帝的敵人嘲笑、折磨和殺害。他這樣做是為了服事周圍的人。

And we are to have the same attitude as Jesus. To be willing to serve to build up out of love sacrificially.

我們要有與耶穌一樣的態度。願意以犧牲的愛來服事來造就。

Paul builds on this image of strong and weak in verse 7.

保羅在第7節以強弱的形象基礎指出。

Accept one another, then, just as Christ accepted you, in order to bring praise to God

7 所以，你們要彼此接納，如同基督接納你們一樣，歸榮耀給上帝。

Accept one another.

彼此接納。

Those three little words are incredibly simple to say and profoundly difficult. We are so good at dividing. We divide over small and meaningless things just as quickly as deep and meaningful things. We'll divide straight after the church into tea and coffee lines!

這四個小字說起來非常簡單，卻非常困難。我們很擅長分裂。我們劃分細小而無意義的事情與劃分深刻而有意義的事情一樣快。我們在崇拜後就直接分成喝茶的和喝咖啡的！

Rome and the church are coming out of massive cultural and religious differences, yet Paul can say, Accept one another. Why? Jesus has accepted you. Only by knowing that Jesus accepts us can we accept others.

羅馬和那裡的教會從巨大的文化和宗教差異中走出來，但保羅可以說，彼此接納。為什麼？耶穌已經接納了你。只有知道耶穌接納我們，我們才能接納別人。

When we are tempted to think we can earn our salvation and acceptance into God's family, we easily compare ourselves to others to convince ourselves that we're right. I'm better than Gary. And it results in insecurity and a critical spirit. And neither of those helps us to accept others. Instead, you're not doing it right.

當我們試圖認為我們可以贏得我們的救恩並被上帝的家庭接納時，我們很容易將自己與他人進行比較以說服自己我們是對的。我比加里好。它會導致不安全感和批判。這些都不能幫助我們接納他人。相反，你沒有做對。

But for many of us today, all you might need to go home and dwell on is this verse. Christ has accepted you. He doesn't leave us there, he does build us up, but first, he accepts me.

但對於我們今天的許多人來說，你可能需要回家細想這節經文。基督已經接納了你。他沒有把我們留在那兒，他確實建立了我們，但首先，他接納了我。

You.
你。

Despite all our deficiencies and flaws. Despite your struggles with mental health. Despite how you think about yourself when you look in the mirror in the morning. Despite failings and mistakes. You are accepted.

儘管我們有所有的不足和缺陷。儘管你在心理健康方面有掙扎。不管你早上照鏡子時是怎麼評估你自己。儘管失敗和錯誤。你已被接納了。

Jesus has accepted me.
耶穌接納了我。

Has it caused conflict and division in your family? Jesus accepts you.
它是否在您的家庭中引起了衝突和分裂？耶穌接納你。

Made mistakes at work and lose your job? Jesus accepts you.
在工作中犯錯並失去工作？耶穌接納你。

Are you gotten divorced? Jesus accepts you.
你離婚了嗎？耶穌接納你。

Jesus, who knows all of my flaws. He accepts me.
耶穌，他知道我所有的缺點。他接納我。

Brothers and sisters, I feel like stopping there and praying thanks to Jesus.
弟兄姊妹，我想停下來以禱告感謝耶穌。

So, if God accepts me, accepts you and overlooks my sins to do it, I have to do that with others. Can you imagine being more judgemental than God? No, sorry, I know Jesus forgives you, but I just can't accept you.

所以，如果神接納我，接納你，並且忽略了我的罪，那麼我必須對其他人做同樣的事情。你能想像比上帝更滿有評斷嗎？不，對不起，我知道耶穌已原諒你，但我就是不能接納你。

When we as a church know how Jesus has been strong to build us up, when we sit in the joy that Jesus accepts us, we have a picture of what bearing with and accepting other people looks like.

當我們作為一個教會知道耶穌如何堅強地建立我們時，當我們坐在耶穌接納我們的喜悅中時，我們就會明白如何分擔和接納他人。

Regardless of their cultural difference, theological difference
不管他們的文化差異，神學差異

Brothers and sisters, I wonder if we can be tempted to think that everyone should look and think like me. Get two things wrong.

弟兄姊妹，我不知道我們是否會認為每個人都應該像我一樣的看法和思考。搞錯兩件事。

Firstly, it assumes that I'm right and I'm not. Jesus is building me up. I might be stronger, but I'm not the strongest. Jesus is still building me up. We need humility.

首先，它假設我是對的，而我不是。耶穌正在造就我。我可能更強，但我不是最強的。耶穌仍在建造我。我們需要謙卑。

And the second thing, assuming that difference equals wrong. Way people sing, read their bible, and pray, and they do it differently, so it's wrong.

第二件事，假設差異等於錯誤。人們唱歌、閱讀聖經和祈禱的方式不同，他們的作法不同，所以這是錯誤的。

I called to accept and bear with it. Understand before just correcting.

我被召去接納並分擔。在糾正之前要理解。

This is how the church will function and be on a mission. United by Christ.

這就是教會將如何運作並肩負使命的方式。被基督聯合一起。

Jesus accepting us has two great values.

耶穌接納我們有兩個重要的價值。

God gets glorified, and the world's nations get to know Jesus.

上帝得著榮耀，世界各國都能認識到耶穌。

Paul quotes four different parts of the old testament to speak about this.

保羅引用舊約的四個不同部分來談論這一點。

Vs 9. Praise you among the gentiles.

第 9 節，要在外邦中稱頌你。

Vs 10. Rejoice you Gentiles

第 10 節，外邦人哪，要一同歡樂。

Vs 11. Praise the Lord, all you Gentiles.

第 11 節，列邦啊，你們要讚美主！

Vs 12. The root of Jesse will spring up...in him the Gentiles will hope.

第 12 節，將來有耶西的根要興起來...外邦人要仰望他。

God has been working throughout history so that the Gentiles, who weren't God's people, could be accepted to his praise and Glory.

上帝在整個歷史中一直在工作，以便非上帝子民的外邦人能夠為讚美他和榮耀他而被接納。

It has always been God's plan to accept many people. So we accept others because God accepts us.

This is the heart of the Gospel.

接納許多人一直是上帝的計劃。所以我們接納別人是因為上帝接納了我們。這是福音的核心。

God accepts people to himself and grows them as disciples, and they are to accept others who grow as disciples. It's a non-stop cycle to see the world win for Jesus.

神接納人到自己哪裡，使他們成長為門徒，他們也要接納其他成長為門徒的人。這是一個看到耶穌贏得世界得勝利的不間斷的循環。

2. The travelling church planter 旅行的植堂者

In response to being accepted by Jesus by being built up in him, Paul is a wonderful example. 保羅一個是回應通過被耶穌接納而在他裡面被造就很好的榜樣。

Paul, who had been a Jew all his life, is called to be with a very different person. For example, Paul who'd never eaten pork ate with people who eat vastly different foods. In response to knowing how God has accepted him, he joyfully goes to the Gentiles.

保羅生來是猶太人，他蒙召與一個完全不同的人在一起。例如，從未吃過豬肉的保羅和吃不同食物的人一起吃飯。得知上帝如何接納他後，他欣然前往外邦人那裡。

Accepting and building up people is active. And for Paul, that meant he was a travelling missionary and church planter. Verse 15-16

接納和造就人是積極的。對保羅來說，這意味著他是一名巡迴傳教士和教會建立者。第 15-16 節

because of the grace God gave me 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

我因上帝所賜我的恩，使我為外邦人作基督耶穌的僕役，作上帝福音的祭司，使所獻上的外邦人...可蒙悅納。

Sharing his faith, accepting others, and seeing them disciplined to know and love Jesus is not just an add-on for Paul. It is central to his life.

分享他的信仰，接納他人，並看到他們被門徒訓練來認識和愛耶穌，對於保羅不僅僅是附加的事情。這是他生命的中心。

And that looked unique to him.

這對他來說是獨一無二的。

Verse 20.

第 20 節。

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.

這樣，我立了志向，不在基督的名已經傳揚過的地方傳福音，免得建造在別人的根基上；

Paul is passionate about planting churches in regions where there were no Christians. It is a pioneering work. Many Christian pastors and teachers in the early church preferred to stay where they were.

保羅熱衷於在沒有基督徒的地區建立教會。這是一項開創性的工作。早期教會的許多基督教牧師和教師更願意留在原地。

But Paul was sent by Jesus to the world. He went to the places where people were furthest from faith in Jesus. This is why verse 22 says he'd been hindered from going to Rome. There was already a church there.

但保羅是被耶穌派到世界向地。他去了人們離耶穌最遠的地方。這就是為什麼第 22 節說他被攔阻去羅馬的原因。那裡已經有教會。

And this is truly wonderful. We continue to need people to be sent out to difficult places where there aren't many churches so that they might get to know Jesus.

這真是太棒了。我們仍然需要將人們派往沒有很多教人會的困難地方，以便他們認識耶穌。

This is the reason that Sam and Sally Low left Sydney. There are so many good churches and many Christians here. You could drive for 10 minutes and go past ten good churches. And that is good! But out of our strength, do we build up the kingdom of St Paul's Chatswood? It is good to bear with and build up the weak. So Sam and Sally are on the Gold Coast, which might be a beautiful place to go, but it doesn't have many churches.

這就是盧森牧師和太太莎麗離開悉尼的原因。這裡已有很多好的教會和很多基督徒。你可以開車 10 分鐘就經過十多個不錯的教堂。這很好！但憑我們的力量，我們建立車士活聖保羅的王國嗎？分擔並造就不堅強的更好。所以盧森和莎麗到了黃金海岸，可能是一個美麗的地方，但沒有很多教會。

Richard and Ali Maegraith are in Berlin. Germany is a country that has a heritage of Christianity in name and buildings only. There are so few Christians and bible believing churches. The Maegraiths have said that many Muslims who think Christianity has failed are moving to the area. It's failed because there are large churches that are empty, and they have been reduced to pretty buildings you stop at on tourist trips. And they are not vibrant communities of Christians.

理查和愛莉·馬格夫到了柏林。德國是一個僅在名稱和建築上擁有基督教遺產的國家。基督徒和相信聖經的教會很少。他們說，許多穆斯林正在遷入看為基督教已失敗的地區。因為有些大教堂是空蕩蕩的，已經變成了你在旅遊時停下來的漂亮建築，而被看為失敗了。不再是充滿活力的基督徒社群。

We need people to continue to be trained and sent, just like Paul was. To start churches. Is God possibly preparing and calling you to go somewhere out of your comfort zone? It could be as simple as sharing with your coworkers about Jesus or that God wants to train and equip you to plant a church overseas.

我們需要人們繼續接受培訓和被派遣，就像保羅一樣。去創立教會。上帝是否可能正在準備並呼召你去你舒適區之外的某個地方？可以像與你的同事分享耶穌那樣，或者上帝想要訓練和裝備你在海外建立教會那樣簡單。

3. The international church 國際教會

But we won't all go. It is also good that there is a church here in Chatswood for you, the saints, to gather and praise God. Not everyone is a missionary. The pastoral team here at St Paul's believes there is that much value in being here. But while here, we get to support ministry in the International church. But we won't all go. In 車士活有一個教會讓你們聖徒聚集和讚美上帝也很好。不是每個人都是宣道士。聖保羅的教牧同工相信留在這裡有很多價值。在這裡，我們可以支持國際教會的事工。

Paul talks about the interconnected international church in verse 23.

保羅在第 23 節談到相互關聯的國際教會。

23 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.

23 但如今，在這一帶再沒有可傳的地方，而且這許多年來，我迫切想去你們那裏，24 盼望到西班牙去的時候經過，得見你們，先與你們彼此交往，心裏稍得滿足，然後蒙你們為我送行。

Paul is planning to head to Rome and then on to Spain. And he is expecting that the church in Rome would help him, 'to have you assist me on my journey there. Whether that is sending him with helpers on the journey, or food and money, there was an expectation that the Roman church would partner with Paul to send him to Spain.

保羅計劃前往羅馬，然後前往西班牙。他期待羅馬的教會會幫助他，「蒙你們為我送行」。無論是送助手與他一起旅行，還是食物和金錢，保羅是期望羅馬教會與他合作，送他到西班牙。

But that will come later because he is on his way to Jerusalem, carrying money from Macedonia's churches and Achaia. Verse 26.

但這將在以後發生，因為他正在前往耶路撒冷的路上，帶著來自馬其頓教會和亞該亞的捐款。第 26 節。

25 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

25 但如今我要到耶路撒冷去，供應聖徒的需要。26 因為馬其頓和亞該亞人樂意湊出一些捐款給耶路撒冷聖徒中的窮人。

This is a picture of what it means to be strong and accepting of your neighbours. Paul will take financial strength from the church in Rome to help Spain. Macedonia and Achaia sent financial strength to Jerusalem, which was in drought and famine then.

這是一張關於堅強和接納你的鄰居意味著什麼的圖片。保羅將從羅馬教會獲得經濟實力來幫助西班牙。馬其頓和亞該亞向當時正處於乾旱和飢荒的耶路撒冷提供捐款。

Spreading support for these fledgling churches was so important that Paul, the preacher and church pastor, was carrying them around.

為這些初出茅廬的教會帶來金錢支持是如此重要，以至於傳道人和教會牧師保羅帶著這教導到處走。

But it wasn't the only support.

但這不是唯一的支持。

Paul calls on the church in Rome in verse 30,

保羅在第 30 節呼籲羅馬的教會，

30 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.

30 弟兄們，我藉著我們的主耶穌基督，又藉著聖靈的愛，勸你們與我一同竭力為我祈求上帝

God is the one who, called Paul, provides for us so that we can give out of his generosity. Paul knows who is in control of all things. He calls on the church to remember that too. We get to be a part of the mission that God is on about.

上帝是那位呼召保羅，為我們提供了一切的，以便我們可以從他的慷慨中給予。保羅知道誰在掌管一切。他呼籲教會也記住這一點。我們將成為上帝正在執行的使命的一部分。

Brothers and sisters. It is the first Sunday of Mission Month. The focus this year is on three words. **Give / Pray / Share.** Romans 15 calls us to be doing those things. Share the gospel, the good news that God has accepted us in Jesus. Come to the training this afternoon at 4 after fathers day lunch to think about how to share your faith. Then come in a couple of weeks to learn how to read the bible 1-1.

兄弟姐妹。這是傳教月的第一個星期日。今年的重點是三個字。**給予/祈禱/分享**。《羅馬書》15章呼召我們去做那些事。分享福音，上帝在耶穌裡接納我們的好消息。來參加今天下午4點在父親節午餐後的培訓，思考如何分享你的信仰。然後在幾週後學習如何單對單的與他人閱讀聖經。

To pray for the spread of the gospel, for the churches like Kiez Church Wedding in Berlin, for City on a Hill Gold Coast. But as a church, we would take the gospel to this city. Be praying. There's a guide in the back of the booklet, and come to the prayer afternoon.

為福音的傳播祈禱，為柏林的教會，黃金海岸的教會祈禱。但作為一個教會，我們也會把福音帶到我們這個城市。一起繼續祈禱。這小冊子後面有如何祈禱的指南，今天下午來禱告會。

And that we would give. Give to the work of mission. Give to work in Berlin and Gold Coast.

我們會給予的。獻給使命的工作。捐款給在柏林和黃金海岸的工作。

God, in his goodness, has made us strong, and we get to be a blessing to these churches. Let us do that.

上帝，因他的美好，使我們變得堅強，使我們成為這些教會的祝福。讓我們這樣做。