Outline for June 13, 2010 Romans 14:1-12

Introduction: Paul's prayer for the saints in Rome recorded in Romans 15:5-6 is the goal of living as the church in the world, "Now may the God who gives perseverance and encouragement grant you to be of the same mind with one another according to Jesus Christ, so that with one accord you may with one voice glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ" (NASB). Paul's foundation for exhorting the church at Rome to live under Christ's Lordship without the distractions of despising or passing judgment on each other is laid in the gospel. The profound demonstration and declaration of Christ's Lordship in the cross and resurrection is the cornerstone upon which the church is built.

I. The worship that is expressed in a life of obedience (12:1-2)
II. The worship that is exercised in a life of service (12:3-8)
III. The worship that is evidenced by genuine love (12:9-21)
  A. Imperatives for the believer in relationship to the household of faith (12:9-13)
  B. Imperatives for the believer in relationship to the world (12:14-13:14)
  C. Imperatives for the believer in his or her obligation to love (13:8-15:13)
    1. The obligation to love – "Owe no one anything…" (13:8)
      a. What is this obligation?
      b. What does Paul mean by this debt of "love"?
      c. The big picture – Eleven imperatives that frame this principle for Paul
        (1) Love displays the very character of Christ in holiness – "Let us walk properly…" (13:11-14)
        (2) Love dresses for war – "and put on the armor of light…" (13:12b-14)
        (3) Love delights in accepting and receiving those who are "weak in faith" (14:1-3, 15:7)
        (4) Love does not despise a brother or sister because of their particular convictions concerning food or days "Let not the one who eats despise…" (14:3; I Corinthians 8:6, 9)
        (5) Love does not determine who is worthy of love by a subjective standard of judgment – "let not the one who abstains pass judgment…" (14:3-13)
          (a) The imperatives of love – "walk properly" (13:13), "put on…" (13:13b-14), "welcome" (14:1, 15:7), "do not despise" (14:3), "do not pass judgment (14:3), "do not destroy" 14:15)
          (b) The doctrinal foundation for this kind of love
            1) The magnificent (efficacious) grace of God – "for God has welcomed him" (14:3)
            2) The mighty power of God – "And he will be upheld" (14:4)
            3) The marvelous measure of the Lord's providence (14:7)
            4) The massive doctrine of the cross – "For to this end…" (14:9)
              - The purpose for which Christ died and sprang to life – "that He might be Lord…"
                To glorify the Father by restoring the honor and glory of His name (John 12:27-28, 17:1-5)
                To ransom from the bondage of sin and shame a bride from every tongue, tribe, people and nation (Revelation 5:9)
                To satisfy the justice and wrath of God (Romans 3:25)
                To reconcile all things to God (Romans 5:10; Colossians 1:17-20)
              - The reality of the cross (Acts 2:36; Luke 2:11)
              - The goal of the cross (Philippians 2:11)
              - The majesty of the cross (Ephesians 3:8-11)
              - The comprehensive nature and scope of the cross – "Lord both of the dead and the living"
                He is Lord over death (Revelation 1:18)
                He is Lord in death (Psalm 48:14; Philippians 1:20-25)
                He is Lord of the living – Lord of time (John 21:18-23; Psalm 31:15-20); Lord of places, persons and events (Nehemiah 9:6; I Chronicles 29:11-12; Acts 17:26)
            5) The manifest reality of the judgment seat of God (14:10-12) – "Why do you pass judgment…"
              - Christ is Lord, so why are you passing judgment or despising your brother?
              - "For we will all stand…"
                The Bema seat – not judicial, does not go to sin that was dealt with at the cross (Isaiah 40:1) but the joyful commendation of the Lord
                The prize and reward of finishing well (Matthew 25:21, 23)
                Accountable for every word spoken (Matthew 12:36-37; Malachi 3:16), the gifts given to us (Romans 12:1-8), the use of our money (Matthew 6:19-21), how we used our time (Ephesians 5:15)
                NOTE: Our hope and prayer (Jude 24, 25)