

# Christian Unity (Romans 14:13-23) by Robert L. Plummer

Have you ever had a disagreement with other Christians about a certain doctrine or behaviour? Imagine living in the first century and being able to obtain an authoritative word on a debated issue from an apostle of Jesus Christ. That should settle the matter, right?

In Romans 14:5, Paul surprises us by affirming the coexistence of multiple views on the debated issue of “special days.” He writes, “One person esteems one day as better than another, while another esteems all days alike. Each one should be fully convinced in his own mind” (Rom. 14:5).

Each one convinced in his own mind? But, Paul, I wanted you to adjudicate on this issue and tell me who is right!

In Romans 14–15, Paul teaches us that while Christians must agree on the essentials of the faith, there are other matters about which Christians will continue to disagree until Jesus returns. In admitting this, Paul is not saying that these matters are unimportant. Nor is he denying there are, in fact, answers to our questions. Yet, Paul is saying, agreement on these matters should not be viewed as a first-order issue and certainly not as one essential for salvation.

There are some things that are “of first importance,” such as the death, burial, and resurrection of Jesus Christ (1 Cor. 15:3). But not all matters are of primary significance. And when we find ourselves disagreeing with fellow believers over such matters, we must never allow our disagreement to overshadow our more fundamental union with Christ, in which we both share. Such love and welcome to one another is a great privilege as believers.

As family or friends listen to your words and observe your behaviour, are they gaining a broad biblical vision of what is essential in the kingdom of God? Do you reflect the nuanced maturity of Paul in your theological judgments? Or, are you perhaps drawing circles of orthodoxy so narrow as to exclude anyone who does not look exactly like you?

Some further questions for reflection:

What are some ways that we can identify and distinguish between primary essentials of the faith, and secondary (though sometimes important) non-essentials? How do we grow in learning and discerning these things? As has happened, secondary issues can become primary issues—in what circumstances might this happen? What should be the appropriate response?

What would it look like to be in regular fellowship with someone you disagreed with on a secondary issue? How could you show gospel-driven unity and love with someone you disagreed with?



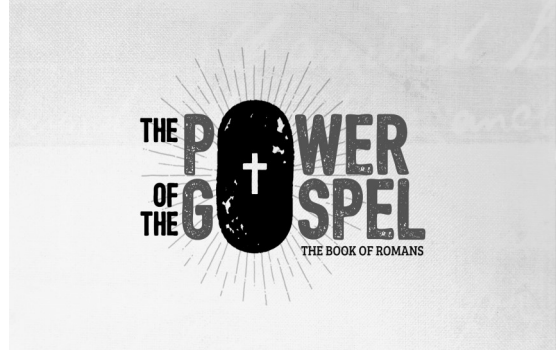
17 June 2018 | Service Times: 9am & 11:30am

**Welcome, we're glad you're here!**  
We are a church family committed to following Jesus Christ as Lord. We do this by getting to know him through his living Word, the Bible, which is why the sermon is the key part of our Sunday services. Find out more about us at [www.slechurch.org.au](http://www.slechurch.org.au).

## This Week: Gospel Ministry and Partnership

As Paul finishes this epic letter, he explains his unique God given role as a gospel minister to the Gentiles. He urges the Roman Christians to enter into gospel partnership with him and greets many who already have. He finishes with a doxology of praise to the God of the gospel. Reading this passage today, we are given a wonderful picture of gospel ministry and partnership to follow and aspire to.

*by Pastor Ben Ho*



## Today's Service

- Welcome and Singing** The Saving One  
In Christ Alone  
Facing a Task Unfinished
- Holy Communion**
- Offering**
- Community News**
- Bible Reading** Romans 15:14—16:27
- Sermon** By Pastor Ben Ho
- Song of Response** Servants of the Gospel

## Stay Connected

- facebook.com/slechurch
- slechurch.org.au
- +61 7 3371 7589
- info@slechurch.org.au
- 83 Ryans Road, St Lucia 4067

Check out [slechurch.org.au/groups](http://slechurch.org.au/groups) to find a group that you can join.

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# Say hello

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Join us for morning tea at 10:30am.  
We'd love to have a chat and get to know you better.

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## Our Pastors

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### PASTOR BEN HO

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### PASTOR STEVEN TRAN

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## Financial Update

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Last Week	\$6,183.80
Weekly Required	\$5,520
Shortfall 2018	\$0.00

### Giving by Electronic Funds Transfer

**A/C Name:** SLE Church  
**Bank:** National Australia Bank  
**BSB:** 084-424  
**A/C No:** 396558544

SLE Church is a branch church of Chinese Christian Church Brisbane

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## Prayer Points

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**PRAISE GOD FOR HIS WISDOM IN BRINGING DIVERSE PEOPLE TOGETHER IN HIS CHURCH!** Praise God that in his infinite wisdom he has planned and purposed to bring together sinners from all walks of life, unite them together, and display his love through them for each other and for their neighbours. Pray that we would carry out this plan and purpose with joy as we love and serve each other to build gospel-unity.

### PRAISE GOD FOR ANDREW AND MELISSA CHIN'S NEW BABY ELEANOR!

Thank God that Eleanor (God is my light) Chin was delivered safely on Wednesday morning, and that both baby and parents are doing well. Pray that Andrew and Mel would rely on God's grace to sustain them for parenting, and that Eleanor will hear of the Gospel through many avenues: and one day gladly receive it personally with joy.

**PRAY FOR ANNA NGO'S HEALTH** Pray that as Anna now receives palliative care that God, in his mercy, would be kind to ease her suffering. While we pray for a miracle, we also pray that she is prepared well to meet with Jesus, and that her family would be comforted by the gospel at this time. Pray that we would lovingly support Anna's family at this time as well.

### PRAY FOR THE STUDENTS IN EXAMS

Continue to pray for students taking exams to study well, be rested, and trust God with all their results. Pray that fellowship with God and the church would not be neglected.

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## Community News

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### GROW WOMEN'S CONFERENCE

When we see so much wrong in our world and in us, and all seems out of control, how do we keep going? Who and what do we hang on to? Is our only choice to just keep calm and carry on... hoping all will be OK?

Come to GROW 2018 and meet Jesus through the book of Habakkuk. Bewildered by so much that is wrong everywhere, Habakkuk cries to God in protest. God's answer is unexpected, glorious, and personal. Habakkuk listened. Are we listening too?

Grow is an annual women's conference by QCCA. It will be held on **4 August, Saturday 9—3:30pm** at St Peter's Lutheran College Performing Arts Centre (Indooroopilly). Jenny Baddeley and Keiyeng Nation will be speaking on the book of Habakkuk. Register online at <http://qcca.org.au/grow/> under "SLE Church" for a group price of \$52 (including morning tea and lunch).

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## Serving

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	Today	Next Week
<b>Chair</b>	Gabriel	Mervin
<b>Preach</b>	Ps Ben	Ps Ben
<b>Bible Read</b>	Boon Cheng <i>Alice</i>	Matthew <i>Marilyn</i>
<b>M.Tea</b>	Winnie Tao Corina	Genevieve Tania
<b>Wash Up</b>	SOS Central	SOS Central
<b>Welcome</b>	Ken Steph Dan <i>Benedict</i> <i>Marilyn</i> <i>David</i> <i>Hui Xian</i>	Ken Steph Dan <i>Benedict</i> <i>Marilyn</i> <i>David</i> <i>Hui Xian</i>
<b>Stewards</b>	Jeffery Simeon <i>Helen</i> <i>Stanley</i> <i>Sarah</i>	Jeffery Simeon <i>Helen</i> <i>Stanley</i> <i>Sarah</i>
<b>Piano</b>	Dan Lowe	Joanna
<b>Guitar</b>	Dom	Ivan
<b>Bass</b>	Chuan Yuan	Aaron
<b>Drums</b>		Ariel
<b>Vocal</b>	Alisha/Sarah/ Joachim	Sharne/Lim An
<b>PA</b>	Li Wei <i>Chris</i>	Reuten <i>Jowin</i>

# Gospel Ministry and Partnership [Romans 14:1—15:13]

## 1. Introduction

## 2. Paul's gospel ministry to the Gentiles (15:14-33)

### A. Paul's unique ministry (15:16a)

#### i. Priestly ministry (16b-18)

#### ii. Powerful ministry (18:1-9)

#### iii. Pioneering ministry

### B. Partnership in Paul's ministry (22-29)

## 3. Serve; don't hinder, but build up (14:13—15:13)

### A. Never hinder faith (14:13-23)

### B. Always please and build up (15:1-13)

### C. Patronage

### D. Putting in

### E. Opposition

## 4. Conclusion: God of the Gospel