

ROMANS 15:14-21
DECEMBER 5, 2021



FBC SUMMIT STUDENTS

INTRODUCTION

Have you ever had a burden for another person or group of people (i.e. a friend or family member who was sick or an oppressed group of people like human trafficking victims or people trying to flee Afghanistan)?

What about people who haven't heard the gospel? Have you ever had a burden for them? Why or why not?

Unreached people groups are ethno-linguistic groups that are less than 2% Evangelical and less than 5% Christian Adherent. There are 17,410 total people groups in the world and 7,392 (42.5%) of them are unreached. The Joshua Project seeks to educate Christians about these groups, track them, and reach them with the gospel. They have an app you can download that highlights one such group every day. Today's unreached of the day is the Tajakant Bedouin in Algeria, a group of 1.8 million people who have zero Christians among them.

(Statistics from https://joshuaproject.net/people_groups/statistics. You can share more information about today's group from the Joshua Project app or at https://joshuaproject.net/people_groups/15199)

DISCUSSION

> **HAVE A VOLUNTEER READ ROMANS 15:14-21.**

Notice how Paul described the Romans in verse 14. Are you that type of person that other Christians can count on? How do you get there?

What was the aim of Paul's life? Do all believers share this same calling? Explain.

Prior to becoming a Christian, Paul had an impressive religious resume and then, once he became a Christian, he saw and did some really incredible things on his missionary journeys. How do verses 18-19 explain why he didn't focus on these accomplishments?

How can our own accomplishments get in the way of sharing Christ? What can we do to guard against that?

What was Paul's point in verses 20-21?

Of the people you know, what percentage would you estimate are Christians?

What are some reasons why Christian teenagers should spend the majority of their time around other believers? What are some reasons why Christian teenagers should seek to develop relationships with unbelievers?

What are some ways that we, here at FBC Summit Students, share in Paul's pioneering spirit, starting new works in areas where Christ is not spoken of? Do you engage in those opportunities, or do you stick to more comfortable areas where the gospel is already being preached?

GOING DEEPER

What would you say are the most important parts of sharing the gospel with people who don't know about Jesus?

Memorize Romans 15:18. Then personalize it by replacing "the Gentiles" with the name of a person or people group with whom you need to share the gospel.

APPLICATION

Who in your context would be a close comparison to an unreached people group (i.e. your street, your basketball team, your algebra class, the people who sit one table over from you in the cafeteria at lunch, etc.)?

When was the last time you had a conversation with someone who didn't know anything about Jesus? How did that conversation go?

PRAYER

Pray that God would renew in you a commitment to sharing the gospel in the places where it still needs to be heard. Ask for unwavering dedication to the true gospel message of the Bible.

COMMENTARY**ROMANS 15:14-21**

15:14-16. Paul was convinced that the Roman Christians were gifted by God for effective service and healthy church life. God does not build His church without seeing to these needs. Yet Paul also knew that God had uniquely called and equipped him as an apostle to the Gentiles. So what he wrote was sure to be useful in helping the Roman house churches grow to maturity. He served as a priest offering the Gentiles to God and wanted this offering to be holy, acceptable, and pleasing to God (12:1-2).

15:17-19. Paul wanted to boast in Christ Jesus to the Roman believers about how God had used him to spread the good news all the way from Jerusalem to the Roman province of Illyricum (modern Albania). God had approved of his ministry by authenticating signs and wonders and many conversions. The Roman believers would have been comforted by this testimony, for it illustrated the secure basis on which they had rested their hopes for salvation.

15:20-21. In 10 years, God had used Paul as a pioneer church planter in the eastern section of the Roman Empire. Paul felt his ministry was in keeping with OT messianic prophecy (Isa 52:15). He was the planter; others would come water the soil, and God would give growth (1Co 3:3-9).