



St. Paul's Lutheran Church
Minot, ND
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The Epistle of Romans

The Justification of the Ungodly

Romans 12:14-21

Two main themes are present in verses 14 through 21. The first is the apostle Paul's call for a posture of peace concerning humility. The second is the posture of peace concerning unity.

In verse 16, Paul says that we are not to be haughty but associate with the lowly. In other words, the power of the Gospel is such that we Christians do not need to be preoccupied with ourselves. Christ has done it all for us therefore, we need not be self-reliant. Furthermore, since we know that we are the created and not the Creator we know that we are not the center of the universe. The fact of the matter is that our sinful nature curves us inward on ourselves. However, the Holy Spirit, through the Gospel, turns us inside out. We live our lives outside of ourselves, clinging to the Word, and Sacraments while loving our neighbor. Because we have every single spiritual blessing in Christ Jesus, we need not be oriented to the high things of life. We do not need the accolades of life for we have

Christ. We don't need to elevate ourselves before our neighbor, for Christ takes care of us already.

Secondly, with the respect to unity? Unity is broken when we think too highly of ourselves, or we resort to depending on our ideas. However, when we understand our humility and that all we have is gift, as well as understanding that our wisdom and knowledge depend on the Lord's Word, unity is not only established but maintained. Christ's church is most unified when we understand that we are poor miserable sinners – beggars – all receiving from the same Lord. Christ church is most unified when we drink from the same source of wisdom – Christ's Word.

Humility and unity are a posture of peace within Christ's church established by the Gospel.