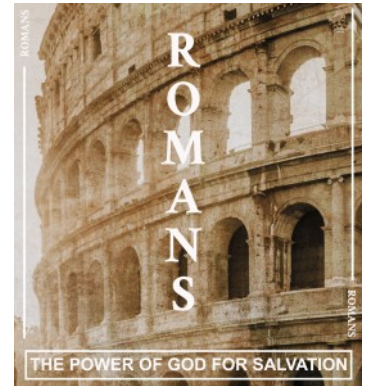


Pastor Jake Magee

February 8, 2026

Romans 15:1-7



What the Strong Really Lift

"We who are strong have an obligation to bear with the failings of the weak, and not to please ourselves." – Vs. 1

1. The Strong Lift Different Weights

"...bear with the failings of the weak..." (v.1)

2. The Strong Hold Different Goals

"...not to please ourselves..." (v.1)

3. The Strong Endure Different Hardships

"...endurance and encouragement..." (v.5)

Small Group Discussion Guide

What the Strong Lift

Romans 15:1-7

Getting Started

When you hear the word “strong” in a church context, what usually comes to mind—knowledge, discipline, freedom, confidence? What kinds of “strength” tend to get noticed or praised in churches today?

Digging Deeper (Read Romans 15:1-7)

1. Read Romans 15:1 slowly. Which word stands out most to you—*strong*, *obligation*, *bear*, or *failings*? Why?
2. Paul assumes something important here: there will always be both strong and weak believers in the same church, or *people will always be strong in some areas and weak in others*. In what ways do you see this playing out in a local church?
3. According to this passage, what is the specific responsibility of the strong? What are some practical ways this responsibility might show up in everyday church life?
4. This passage suggests that not every “heavy” thing lifted proves real spiritual strength. Some in Rome thought they were strong because of *what they could lift*—but what they were lifting was the wrong test for strength. What are some “weights” Christians lift today that may *feel* like maturity but don’t reflect it? Why do we tend to think they point to maturity?
5. Verses 1–2 shift the goal of strength from *pleasing ourselves* to *building others up*. Where do you see that shift in the text? How does this challenge modern ideas that elevate personal autonomy, self-care, or self-actualization as ultimate goals?

6. The strong are called to lay down their freedom to self-select which kinds of Christians they associate with. How were *both* the strong and the weak in Rome self-selecting? How do you think each group may have spiritualized their avoidance of each other? How does verse 3 confront this tendency—and what does that mean for us?
7. In an earthly family, you don't get to choose your family members—you're given them and called to love and bear with them. How is that like life in a local church?
8. In this passage, bearing someone's failings is very different from merely tolerating them. Where do you see that distinction in the text? What does true "bearing" require that tolerance does not?
9. Hebrews 12:1–2 was presented as a model for bearing others' failings. How does Jesus' example reshape what endurance, sacrifice, and joy look like in difficult relationships?

Making It Real

Is there a specific relationship where God may be calling you to lift differently—to carry rather than flex your strength?

Verse 5 says we need supernatural help to live this way. Pray asking for that strength.

Resources:

Romans: Righteousness from Heaven | R. Kent Hughes

www.blueletterbible.org

www.biblehub.com

www.preceptaustin.org