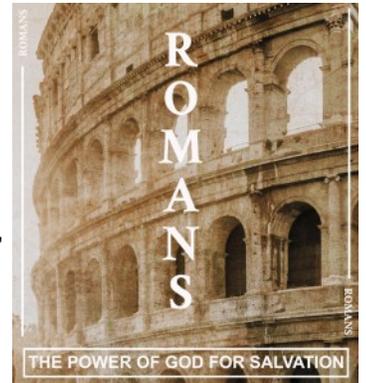


Pastor Jake Magee

February 22, 2026

Romans 15:14-21



Fundamentals

¹⁴I myself am satisfied about you, my brothers, that you yourselves are full of goodness, filled with all knowledge and able to instruct one another...

A good church...

1. Makes Strangers into Friends

2. Turns Friends into Family

3. Grows Children into Adults

4. Forms Adults into Parents

Small Group Discussion Guide
Fundamentals
Romans 15:14-21

Getting Started

Fill in the blank: A good church has/does _____.

Digging Deeper (Read Romans 15:14–21)

1. **Paul says, “I myself am satisfied about you...”** He has never visited Rome, yet he speaks with personal conviction and affection. In chapter 16, he lists dozens of specific names.
 - Why do you think names matter so much to Paul? What does this tell us about the kind of church he valued? How is focusing on names different from focusing on numbers?

 - The first fundamental described in the sermon was this: *A good church makes strangers into true friends.* What practical things help a church move people from anonymity to real friendship? What obstacles tend to keep people strangers?

2. **Paul calls them “brothers.”** The word means “from the same womb.” This is family language, not friendship language. Read John 3:1–15.
 - What does it mean to be “born again”? Why was Nicodemus confused about what Jesus meant by being “born again”?

 - The second fundamental: *A good church turns friends into family.* Why is new birth more foundational than programs, culture, or improvement? How can churches drift into helping people become “better versions of themselves” instead of calling them to new birth?

3. Paul says they are “full of goodness and filled with all knowledge.” In verse 16 he uses the word “sanctified.” Sanctification means being progressively set apart and shaped by God into the image of Christ. The third fundamental: *A good church grows children into adults.*

- What does spiritual growth look like in everyday life?

- What happens when a church emphasizes conversion but neglects formation?

4. Paul says they are “able to instruct one another.” This is not limited to pastors. It describes a maturing church body. Read 1 John 2:12–14. Notice the progression: little children, children, young men, fathers. Here’s the fourth fundamental: *A good church forms adults into parents.*

- Why does John skip the word “adult” and move straight to “fathers”?

- What does spiritual parenthood look like in practical terms?

- Who are you intentionally helping grow in Christ right now?

Making It Real

Looking at the four fundamentals: making strangers into friends; turning friends into family; growing children into adults; forming adults into parents.

- Which one do you think our church is strongest in right now? Which one needs the most attention?

- Where is God inviting you personally to take a next step?

Resources:

Romans: Righteousness from Heaven | R. Kent Hughes

www.blueletterbible.org

www.biblehub.com

www.preceptaustin.org