**Romans Series October 1, 2023**

**Living to Serve Others in Unity - Romans 15:1-13**

1. Christians Strive for Unity **To Build Each Other Up**   
Romans 15:1-2

* Strong: believers that are spiritually mature
  + Those with more significant spiritual influence
* Weak: believers that are new to the faith / or less spiritually mature
  + Those more vulnerable in the community, often poorer in life / spirit
* The goal is not to put yourself on a pedestal as more mature, but to serve as an example to others by humbly serving them through **mutual encouragement** (edification)
  + When brothers / sisters have differences on secondary or tertiary doctrinal issues, it cannot be divisive

Christians are NOT **Self-Centered**

2. Scripture Serves to Unite Christians **In Mutual Encouragement and Hope** Romans 15:3-4

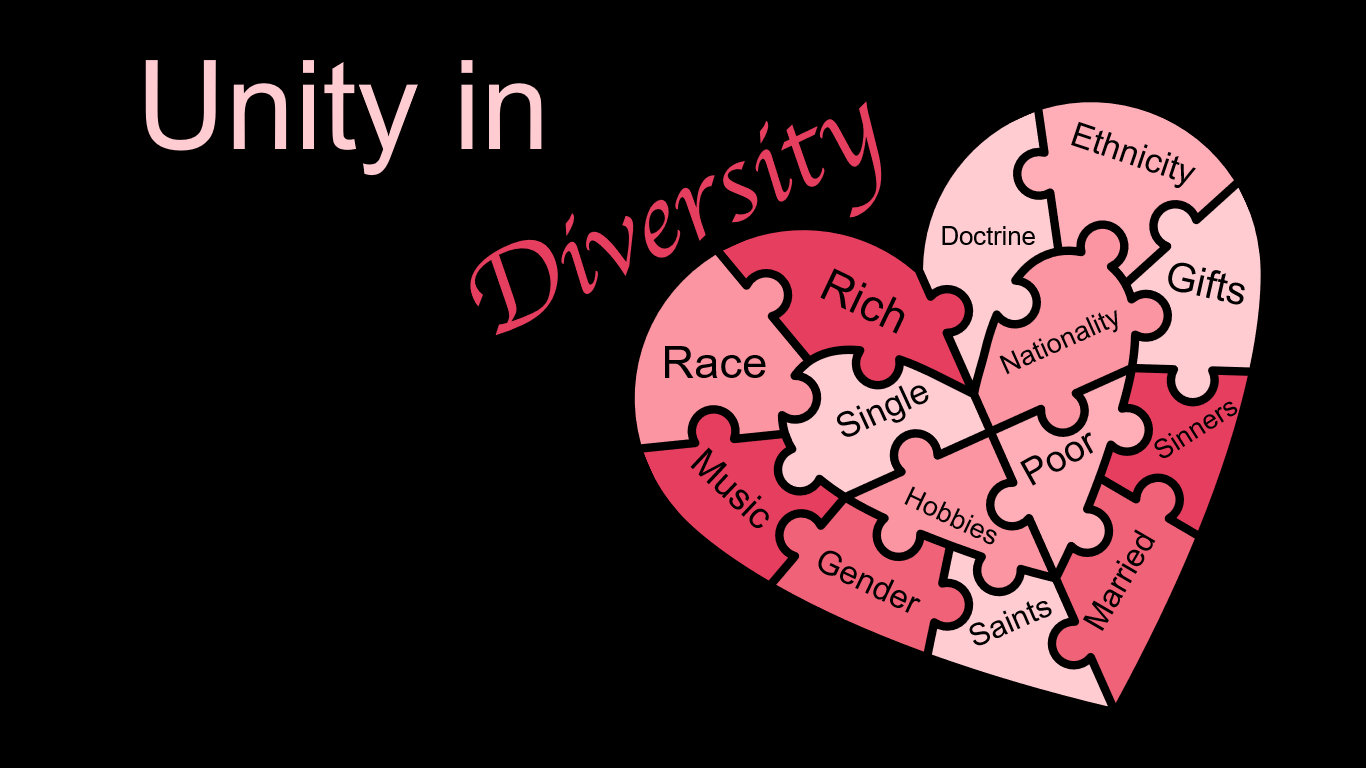
* Scripture is given for us to teach us
  + It guides us to persevere, as the saints of old did
  + It encourages us to know we are not the only ones to experience what we are going through
  + Psalm 69 is a difficult passage because David is in hardship and his calls to God are in the midst of pain and brokenness

3. Christians Unite Together to **Glorify God** Romans 15:5-6

* The best solution for suffering is to turn it into praise of God
  + Bearing the challenges of life gets much easier as we are “of the same mind with one another” (5b)

4. Christians Welcome **Diverse People** Romans 15:7-9

* Accept one another”
  + The goal is to receive or welcome any who want to come to Christ Jesus
  + Matthew 11:28   
    “Come to Me, all who are weary and heavy-laden, and I will give you rest.”
  + The purpose of maintaining unity in diversity is stated in both verses 6 & 7
  + For the glory of God the Father and of Jesus Christ



5. Christians Unite Together in Hope,   
**Believing in Faith by the Holy Spirit’s Power** Romans 15:10-13

* Jews and Gentiles alike unite in praise of God
  + It is one of the purposes of Christ in His work for His people
* Paul quoted from:
  + Psalm 18:49 (David), Deuteronomy 32:43 (Moses)
  + Psalm 117:1 (Unknown), Isaiah 11:10 (Isaiah)
* Verse 13 concludes Romans 14:1 – 15:13 with a prayer
  + The emphasis is on having hope, joy, and peace that comes from God the Holy Spirit

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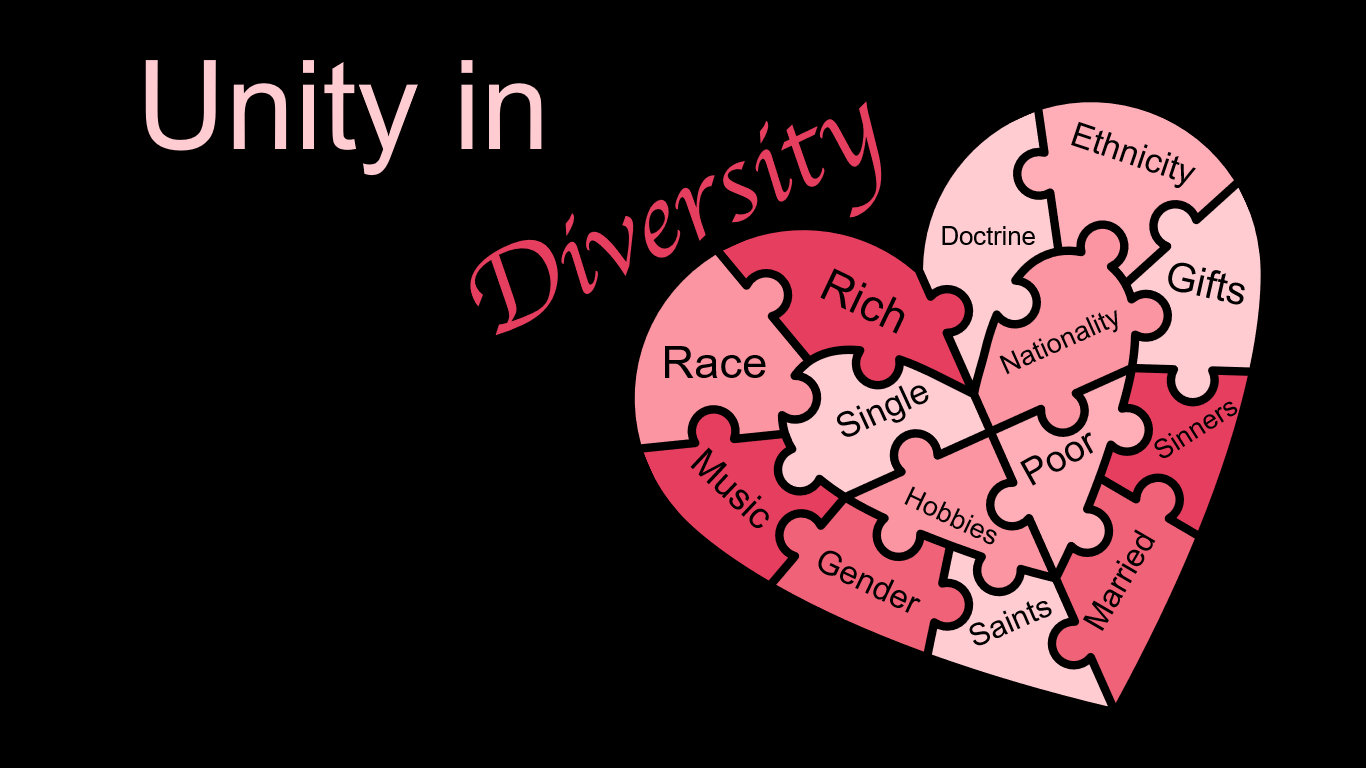
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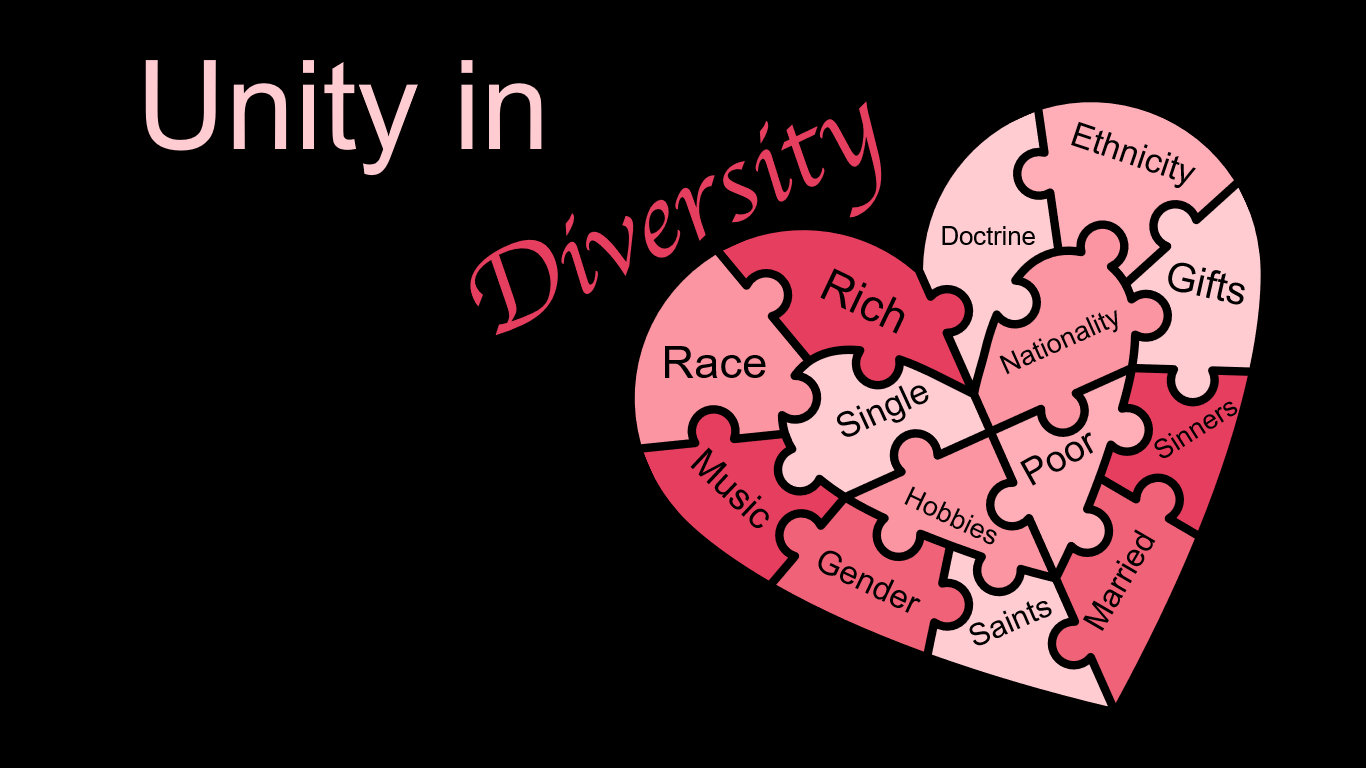


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