

# Romans 15:2

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Let every one of us please his neighbour for his good to edification.

## Analysis

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**Let every one of us please his neighbour for his good to edification** (ἐκάστος ἡμῶν τῷ πλησίον ἀρεσκέτω εἰς τὸ ἀγαθὸν πρὸς οἰκοδομήν, hekastos hēmōn tō plēsion aresketō eis to agathon pros oikodomēn)—Paul universalizes the obligation: hekastos (each one) admits no exceptions among believers. Aresketō (let him please) describes active pursuit of another's benefit, not passive non-offense. The dual qualifiers eis to agathon (unto the good) and pros oikodomēn (toward building up) prevent misunderstanding: neighbor-pleasing aims at genuine spiritual benefit, not sinful indulgence or people-pleasing flattery.

Oikodomēn (edification) is architectural language—building up God's temple, the church (1 Cor 3:9). Every Christian interaction should construct, not demolish. This principle transcends the immediate food/days controversy, establishing love as the hermeneutic for all disputable matters. The neighbor's 'good' is their spiritual maturity in Christ, not their subjective comfort.

## Historical Context

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The emphasis on oikodomē (edification) reflects Paul's consistent ecclesiology: the church is God's building project (1 Cor 14:12, 26; Eph 4:12, 29). In the Roman context, this meant Jewish and Gentile believers learning to value community unity over individual preferences—a radical vision in the stratified Greco-Roman world.

## Related Passages

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**Genesis 1:1** — Creation of heavens and earth

**Psalms 19:1** — Heavens declare God's glory

## Study Questions

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1. How do you distinguish between 'pleasing your neighbor' for godly edification versus ungodly people-pleasing?
2. In what specific ways this week could you actively build up (oikodomē) a fellow believer rather than merely avoid tearing down?
3. What practices in your Christian community might need reevaluation through the lens of edification rather than personal freedom?

## Interlinear Text

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ἕκαστος	γάρ	ἡμῶν	τῷ	πλησίον	ἀρεσκέτω	εἰς	τὸ
<b>every one</b>		<b>of us</b>		<b>his neighbour</b>	<b>Let</b>	<b>for</b>	
G1538	G1063	G2257	G3588	G4139	G700	G1519	G3588

ἀγαθὸν	πρὸς	οἰκοδομήν·
<b>his good</b>	<b>to</b>	<b>edification</b>
G18	G4314	G3619

## Additional Cross-References

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**Romans 14:19** (Parallel theme): Let us therefore follow after the things which make for peace, and things wherewith one may edify another.

**1 Corinthians 10:24** (Parallel theme): Let no man seek his own, but every man another's wealth.

**1 Corinthians 13:5** (Parallel theme): Doth not behave itself unseemly, seeketh not her own, is not easily provoked, thinketh no evil;

