

Romans 15:2

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

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

Analysis

Let every one of us please his neighbour for his good to edification (ἔκαστος ἡμῶν τῷ πλησίῳ 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

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

Genesis 1:1 – Creation of heavens and earth

Psalm 19:1 — Heavens declare God's glory

Study Questions

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

ἐκαστος	γάρ	ἡμῶν	τῷ	πλησίον	ἀρεσκέτω	εἰς	τὸ
every one	G1063	of us	G3588	his neighbour	Let	for	G3588
G1538		G2257		G4139	G700	G1519	

ἀγαθὸν πρὸς οἰκοδομήν.
his good to edification

Additional Cross-References

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;

