

Day 24 Devotion

We who are powerful need to be patient with the weakness of those who don't have power, and not please ourselves. Each of us should please our neighbors for their good in order to build them up....May the God of endurance and encouragement give you the same attitude toward each other, similar to Christ Jesus' attitude. That way you can glorify God the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ together with one voice.

Romans 15:1-2, 5-6

Somehow in our adult Sunday School class the subject of structural racism came up. Amazingly, Dave and I agreed it was real. He was a self-described Rush Limbaugh 'ditto-head' and I a social justice activist.

But there was still disagreement. Renetta was an African American, recovering crack addict, mother of four troubled teen sons and on welfare. Renetta rejected the idea out of hand.

Dave and I debated with her a little while, but she did not give an inch. What became clear was that she had taken a path to get her life back on track, and it was a monstrous task, requiring a sustained almost super-human effort. The last thing she needed was to have to deal with a debilitating hurdle like having 'the cards stacked against' her from a place she couldn't handle. She came to church to get the encouragement she needed to 'keep on keeping on'.

We white guys had enough privilege to be able to admit the sin that benefitted us. Renetta, though, had trials she brought to the table we were thankful we would never go through. We dropped the subject and admired the strength God gave her each day and her witness in our class and our church. She helped build structural goodness.

Rev. Bob Morgan, Honorably Retired

An invitation to pray with the Renettas of this world:

*My way may not be easy; you did not say that it would be.
But if it gets dark, I can't see my way,
You told me to put my trust in Thee; that's why I'm asking you -
Lord help me to hold out; Lord help me to hold out.
Lord help me to hold out until my change comes. Amen*

RESOURCE: [The Line: Poverty in America - Officially Licensed Version - YouTube](#)