

LOVE ACCEPTS

– Romans 15:5-13
Ps Sam Toms

Sermon notes

We often have a selfish agenda in our relationships

Paul writes to the church in Rome that is struggling with the tension between the Jews and the Gentiles; to encourage them to accept one another just as Christ has accepted them.

This means that we are called to accept people

- Even if they don't deserve it
- Without the need to earn it
- Because Christ modelled it
- Love and esteem and not just tolerate

Our default position is to accept people, to welcome them with open arms.

God longs for his people to be in unity together and with Him.

This unity is the basis of our testimony, our witness and our praise to God.

Life Group Questions

As we grow older, it becomes easy for us to form a cynical approach to people. There is a healthy cynicism that is important for us to not become 'gullible', but often we go beyond that so that our default approach is not to welcome them but to keep people at a distance emotionally and relationally. Christ wants us to accept fellow believers regardless of how we feel about them. In what ways do you find this hard to do?

When we feel it hard to persevere with unity, we would do well to remember that we don't deserve salvation, God's grace or forgiveness. Freely we have been given so freely we can give. What relationships come to mind that could do well by being reminded that we are not responsible for changing the person, but simply to love and accept them, (not necessarily their ideas or views)?

Do you feel like you are an important part of the Body of Christ – his church? Often we think of certain roles of having significant importance, but the greater reality is that all members are crucial for the body to function. Just as our human bodies don't have excess body parts with no function, so the body of Christ only operates as a body when all parts are connected, committed and growing together.

Often we can get trapped into thinking of our own little church bubble. God wants us to accept and love on all the people in his body. This means we have a spiritual and physical obligation to pray and care for the other local churches. Add the local churches to your prayer life this week, as we continue to seek God's presence in our community.

LOVE
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