

Connected With One Another

Accept One Another

Romans 15:1-7

I. Message – Accept (welcome) one another

a. **Accept that others may be spiritually weak – v.1**

i. The context is spiritual weakness

1. What we have called before as “conscience-weakness”

- a. It isn't about being a weak Christian (sub-standard)
- b. It is about struggling with a weak view of grace
- c. The tendency to rely too much on legalism
- d. Rules-based Christianity

2. **Romans 14:1 “Him that is weak in the faith receive ye, but not to doubtful disputations.”**

- a. Accepting this fact is necessary for unity
- b. But also necessary for spiritual healing

c. **James 5:16**

- i. What do you do when others confess their faults to you?
- ii. James says to react with prayer that you might be healed

b. **Accept your responsibility to sacrifice for others' spiritual good**

i. Like Jesus, not doing what is best for YOU – v.3

ii. Like Jesus, accepting the reproach of sinners

a. **John 10:17-18**

b. Paul did! – **1 Corinthians 9:22-23**

c. Timothy did! – **Philippians 2:19-21**

c. **Accept that others' growth might take some time**

i. Consider the example of the Israelites

ii. Learn from this example, Paul says

1. Accept this as a reality

2. Spiritual growth takes time

a. Accept that their growth may be slow

i. Unlike the vineyard workers in Matthew 20:12

- ii. The attitude was: “This is not fair that those just getting started have the same rights to the kingdom as those of us who have grown!”
- iii. Jesus says, “Yes, they do. Exactly the same.”

d. Accept others like Jesus accepted you

- i. “7 Wherefore receive ye one another, as Christ also received us to the glory of God.”
- ii. This word “receive” is often translated in modern versions with the word “welcome”
 - 1. That is even a little deeper than accept, isn’t it?
 - 2. Accept kind of has the idea of resignation
 - 3. But that is NOT how Christ receives you
 - a. He wasn’t chagrined at your coming to faith
 - b. He WELCOMES you!
 - c. John 1:12
 - d. With open arms!
 - i. You don’t have to be part of the welcome team to “welcome” people here
 - ii. You just need to view others correctly
 - iii. Do you view people (positively) as having spiritual needs you can help meet (just like someone did for you)?
 - iv. What happens when we do this?
 - v. God gets glory – v.7
 - vi. “7 Wherefore receive ye one another, as Christ also received us to the glory of God.”