

In Conclusion . . . Accept One Another **Romans 15:7-13**

The theme of accepting your brother in Christ is constant throughout Romans 14 and 15. It must be important. The Bible takes just one chapter to tell us of creation and two whole chapters are devoted to this subject. We saw last week that this issue is important because it is the way God is glorified. His character is seen through your acceptance of a brother.

I. Why accepting your brother in Christ is restated (v.7).

Repetition is used in Scripture for the sake of emphasis. Jesus said, “Verily, verily.” The seraphim cried “Holy, holy, holy is the Lord” (Isaiah 6). Paul uses repetition in Chapters 14 and 15 and for the fifth time he states “*Wherefore, accept your brother.*” However, why is accepting your brother important? What is the issue at hand for us?

(A). Accept your brother *because* God accepted you.

The conjunctive “as” translates a word that can mean “like” or “because.” In the context, it most likely means “because you’re accepted, accept your brother, too!”

“If you do not forgive, neither will your Father in heaven forgive you” (Mk. 11:26).

(B). Accept your brother because it brings God glory on earth.

“To the glory of God” refers both to Christ’s acceptance of us and us of others.

II. How accepting your brother in Christ is illustrated (vs.8-12).

Continuing to relate our acceptance of others with Christ’s acceptance of us, Paul goes into great detail using four Old Testament passages to show Christ’s love of us. Each passage {Ps. 18:49 (v.7); Deut. 32:43 (v.10); Ps. 117:1 (v.11); Is. 11:1 (v.12)} mentions the acceptance of the Gentiles. Jesus Christ is the great illustration for us.

(A). Christ accepted the rejected.

The Hebrews had a word for the Gentiles (goyim) that carried with it the idea of “a people rejected” (or ‘foreigners’). We actually get our word *profane* from a custom of building a fence to keep people out (pro – before; fane – fence).

(B). Christ blessed the blind.

He was a minister to the Jews and the Gentiles were considered blind to truth. *“For God who commanded the light to shine out of darkness hath shined in our hearts, to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in Christ”* (II Corinthians 4:6).

(C). Christ adopted the unwanted.

The Jews considered themselves the family of God. Jesus Christ came to fulfill the promises made to the Jewish fathers (Abraham, Isaac and Jacob). Everything in the Old Testament pointed to Jesus Christ. In Him all the promises are sure.

“For all the promises of God in him are yea, and in him Amen, unto the glory of by us” (II Corinthians 1:20). This is a vivid description of Christ accepting us.

III. When accepting your brother in Christ is frustrated (v.13).

The closing verse of the entire teaching section of Romans is this verse. Paul prays that God will fill the hearts of His people with joy and peace, so that they overflow with hope. It is difficult to accept your brother when you look to him for your joy and peace rather than Christ. May God give you the ability to glorify Him today.