

Accept One Another | Romans 14:1-13, 15:7

Getting Going

1. Settling in & Opening Prayer
2. Do you feel like you are “in” at church? What was done to help you feel in, or what could be done to help you feel in?

Review

1. Have you spent time practicing honouring and encouraging other believers? Any positive examples to share?

Digging Deeper

1. Read through Romans 14:1-13, 15:7. Note what accepting is and isn't. What stands out to you from Paul's challenge and explanation of accepting one another?
2. Jesus made a point of taking outsiders and making them insiders. Jesus took 12 lowerclass men and made them his apostles, He ate with tax collectors and sinners, he touched and healed lepers and ceremonial unclean persons. His death was not simply for the Jews but for all humanity. Why if Jesus spends so much time making outsiders insiders has the Church so often kept outsiders outside of the church and our social circles? Is there ever reason to keep people outside?
3. We often exclude, judge, or condemn over disputable matters. How do you determine whether we are justified in drawing exclusive lines on issues?
BONUS: read through the Nicene Creed to find what the indisputable matters were to the early church.

Practical Preparation:

1. Jesus clashed with the Pharisees and religious elites because they were keeping people from God with their arbitrary rules. How do we run the risk of becoming “Modern Pharisees” by gatekeeping who is in and who is out?
2. Read 1 Corinthians 6:9-11. This text points to how *our* sin has separated us from God, yet through Jesus' shed blood, we are brought in and made “acceptable.” How challenging is this to your pride and ability to earn your way into God's family? If we haven't earned our place, how can we help others (who also haven't earned their place) come into the fold?
3. Being an insider makes it difficult to sympathize with being an outsider. What is something you can do to see the outsiders in our church and bring them in?

Parting Prayer

1. Spend time reflecting upon how we were once outsiders but Jesus brought us in. Pray that we would have His heart for those that are outside and that we would welcome, receive, and accept our brothers and sisters in Christ.

Optional Extra Question - When was the last time you were brand new to a group? What was that time like?