

Accept One Another - Romans 15:5-7 (NIV) – Sermon Guide*

Purpose: To cultivate a grace-filled community that reflects the gospel by accepting one another as Christ has accepted us—creating a culture of belonging rooted in humility and shared need.

Ice Breaker (5 Min)

Share about a time when you felt deeply accepted—or deeply rejected.
What made that experience so powerful?

Scripture Focus - Romans 15:5–7 (Read Aloud)

- **Luke 7:36–47** (The sinful woman and Simon the Pharisee)
- **Luke 18:9–14** (Pharisee and tax collector)

Observations from the Text

- In Romans 14–15, the church is divided over differences (food, convictions, practices).
- Some believers see themselves as “strong,” others as “weak.”
- The issue is not just disagreement—but judgment, distance, and lack of belonging.
- Paul’s command is not simply tolerance, but **acceptance**—to “receive” one another.
- Jesus models this in Luke:
 - He **accepts the sinful woman** who knows her need.
 - He **confronts the self-righteous** who lack humility.
- God welcomes those who come in humility, aware of their sin and need.

Core Teaching Connection

We are called to accept others the same way Christ accepted us:

- He welcomed us when we were spiritually bankrupt and powerless.
- He did not wait for us to measure up.
- He brought us into His heart and home through grace.

This creates a different kind of community:

- Not “Believe to belong” (earn acceptance)
- But “Belong to believe” (grace leads to transformation)

Key posture: “You are wanted.” “We want to help.” “There is no need to measure up.”

Group Discussion

1. Where do you most often see the “insider vs. outsider” dynamic in church or life?
2. Which posture do you tend toward more: **Believe to belong** or **Belong to believe**? Why?
3. Why is it difficult to accept people who think or live differently than we do?
4. In Luke 7, what stands out to you about who Jesus accepts—and why?
5. How does remembering *how Christ accepted you* change how you treat others?

Dig Deeper

1. Read Romans 15:5–6. How does acceptance connect to unity and glorifying God?
2. What is the difference between:
 - Accepting someone
 - Affirming everything they do. *Why is that distinction important?*
3. How does pride (feeling “mature”) quietly undermine belonging in community?
4. What would it look like for our group/church to truly feel like:
 - “You are wanted”
 - “You belong here”

Personal Reflection (Quiet – 2 minutes)

- Where have I struggled to accept someone?
- Do I see myself more like the Pharisee... or the tax collector?
- Where do I need to more deeply receive Christ’s acceptance of me?

Prayerfully consider: “Who is one person I can move toward this week—with welcome, not judgment?”

Closing Prayer

Father, Thank You that You welcomed us when we were weak, sinful, and in need. Thank You that in Christ, we are fully accepted and brought into Your family.

Give us the humility to see ourselves rightly, and the grace to receive others as You have received us.

Make us a people who create belonging—who welcome, help, and love without requiring others to measure up. Let our unity reflect Your heart, and bring glory to You. In Jesus’ name, Amen.