

The Life Challenge

I came that they may have life and have it abundantly." John 10:10

Series: Love One Another
Title: Accept One Another
Key Text: Romans 15:5-9
Speaker: Garth Borthistle
Date: October 22nd, 2023



WARM - UP

What do you think about the big idea from this sermon: **God sent Jesus to save us in order to create a community-on-display, a miracle family.**

Being "saved" is so much more than having your personal sins forgiven so that you can be reconciled to God. Being "saved" means that you are now reconciled to people you would never dream of being in relationship with! God saved you to turn enemies into friends, adversaries into family. **Anything short of this is not the gospel!**

DISCUSSION

In Romans 1:16 Paul says, "I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ, for it is the power of God for all those who believe, to the Jew first and also to the Greek." How does Paul link the gospel with bringing people together?

There are many modern day versions of different people coming together under the gospel. How are we doing with this? Do you find yourself on the opposite side of issues with fellow Christians? Share areas you struggle with? Some examples given were:

- o Right vs. Left
- o Conservatives vs. Libertarians
- o Anti-government vs. Pro-government
- o Contemporary vs. Traditional
- o Moralism vs. Anti-Moralism
- o Vegetarians vs. Meat Eaters
- o Anti-Vax vs. Vaxxed
- o Charismatic vs. Reformed
- o Evangelical vs. Progressive

Read Romans 15:5-9 How do you balance our relevant issues with accepting one another?

DISCUSSION CONTD.

What do you think Tim Keller (The Reason for God) is saying with his quote: *"It is possible to avoid Jesus as Savior as much by keeping all the Biblical rules as by breaking them? Both religion (in which you build your identity on your moral achievements) and irreligion (in which you build your identity on some other secular pursuit or relationships) are, ultimately, spiritually identical courses to take. Both are 'sin'."*

Returning to the main point - do you agree or struggle with the statement that being saved is only part of the gospel story? The other part is, that being "saved" means that you are now reconciled to people you would never dream of being in a relationship with! God saved you to turn enemies into friends, and adversaries into family. Anything short of this is not the gospel.

You can't do this on your own. Accepting one another needs the power of God. Review the following verses in Romans 15 to see how God sent Jesus to save us in order to create a community-on-display, a miracle family. God leaves us with power and resources to do this (we can't do this on our own, it's supernatural)

- Modelled by Christ (vs. 3) "For even Christ did not please himself..."
- Sustained by the Scriptures (vs. 4) "...through endurance and the encouragement of the Scriptures we might have hope."
- Empowered by the Spirit (v, 13) "May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in him, so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit."

APPLICATION

Have a time of prayer around these questions and your responses to these questions (you may want to share first). Either way, what is God asking you to lay down?

Q: Is Jesus Enough? (see Romans 1 - its is the power of God).

Q: What do you need to drop? What has crept in over the months or years that is extra-biblical?

Q: What has got in-between you and Jesus?