

Accept One Another

A sermon by Bob Young

Text: Rom. 15:7

Introduction

Most know about Paul's missionary journeys. However, the journey theme in Romans may go unnoticed. Consider: Rom 1, I want to journey to see you; Rom 15, when I come by you can help me on my journey.

This book is many things—a book about salvation, a book about God's purpose for his people, a book with practical advice. But it is also a book about the relationships we share on the journey, Rom. 16.

I. Accepting one another means

- Welcoming one another
- Learning to respect the other person's conscience and convictions
- We cannot always insist on our own way

II. Accepting one another doesn't mean

- Just putting up with one another
- Mere peaceful coexistence, continued enmity, waiting for a wrong move
- Always agreeing about everything

III. Two Problems

- Don't look down on, condescending
- Don't judge, criticizing
- Is it not terribly rude to cause confusion with condescension or criticism when God is the one who invites us to the table? Who are we to be crossing people off God's invitation list? Where does that leave us when we are critical or condescending?
- We are going to kneel side by side eventually as we honor God together.

IV. Principles

- Worry less about what is acceptable in your neighbor, and more about what is acceptable for you.
- Do not make someone else's life more difficult than it already is.
- Look at everyone as someone for whom Christ died.
- Cultivate your own relationship with God but do not impose it on others.
- Live like you believe. If you have behavior and belief firmly linked together, creed and conduct coherent and consistent, logic and living lined up, you are fortunate.
- Strength is for service, not status.
- Accepting one another is for God's glory.