

LESSON ON ACCEPTANCE & NOT JUDGING-

LOVE YOURSELF AND OTHERS

Watch Object Lesson: <https://youtu.be/yWbDCrKVMMo>

We don't always accept people.

Maybe because they look different, talk different, don't have as much money... there can be a million reasons or excuses why we don't accept others.

Sometimes that person we aren't willing to love is staring back at us in the mirror.

Do you accept everyone you meet no matter what? WHY or WHY NOT?

Should you accept everyone you meet no matter what? WHY or WHY NOT?

Let's take a look at what God has to say about this.

Read Romans 15:5-7.

May God, who gives this patience and encouragement, help you live in complete harmony with each other, as is fitting for followers of Christ Jesus. Then all of you can join together with one voice, giving praise and glory to God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ. Therefore, accept each other just as Christ has accepted you so that God will be given glory.

Here are a few things that we can learn from these verses...

These verses are found in the Book of Romans, which is actually a letter that was written to the people of Rome from the Apostle Paul.

The reason Paul wrote this letter was to help the people of Rome learn about Jesus and how we are called to live as followers of Christ.

Let's break these verses down... going backward:

Verse 17: *"Therefore, accept each other just as Christ has accepted you so that God will be given glory."*

Earlier, we talked about accepting people in your lives...The truth is: We don't always accept people.

Maybe because they look different, talk different, don't have as much money... there can be a million reasons or excuses why we don't accept others.

Or... maybe they smell or have funny teeth, or maybe they believe differently than we do.

No matter what, this verse is telling us that we need to accept everyone, no matter what we think.

God accepted us even though we were sinners, so we should accept everyone just as He does.

Next, here's the first part of this verse:

May God, who gives this patience and encouragement, help you live in complete harmony with each other, as is fitting for followers of Christ Jesus. Then all of you can join together with one voice, giving praise and glory to God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Paul is telling us that God who gives us everything, wants us to do everything we can to live in harmony with each other, and when we do this it shows God love to everyone.

Have you ever felt like you were not accepted?

Think about a time you felt unaccepted.

At some point, all of us will feel left out or unaccepted.

We need to remember that feeling, so when we are faced with the decision of whether or not to accept someone, we choose what God wants us to do.

So what is the one thing we want to take away from today?

Here's the bottom line: **God accepts you just the way you are. So, accept yourself and others as they are.**

God shows us the perfect example of accepting others.

We are not perfect, each of us has sinned, and we do things that are smelly and ugly and rotten to Him.

But, He accepts us no matter what. Now, need to accept ourselves and others, no matter what.

SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Name one person in your school you love hanging out with. WHY?
2. Name one person in your school you believe is totally different than you? WHY?
3. Tell me about a time you felt left out and how that made you feel?
4. Have you ever felt like you weren't good enough for something? Share an example.
5. How do you feel when you hear God wants you to accept everyone?
6. Is there something keeping you from accepting everyone? What is it?
7. How can you start accepting everyone you meet?
8. How would your life change if you accepted everyone you met?
9. What would your friends say about the new you?
10. What do think God would say?