

## How to Love Those Who Are “Different”

Romans 15:7

### Series: Love One Another – Part 4

**Introduction** – To love each other the way Jesus loved His disciples means we must ...

... **ACCEPT ONE ANOTHER,**

**JUST AS CHRIST ACCEPTED US,**

**IN ORDER TO BRING GLORY TO GOD!**

“Connecting is a kind of relating that happens when the powerful life of Christ in one person meets the good life of Christ in another. What every Christian can pour into another is **the powerful passion of acceptance**, a passion that flows out of the center of the gospel, a passion that fills the heart of God.”

Dr. Larry Crabb – Connecting (page 66)

## ◆ What Does It Mean to “Accept One Another?”

- Meaning of the word – “**Accept**”
- Meaning from the context – Romans 15:1-6
- Meaning from the New Testament
- Meaning from the text – Romans 15:7

## ◆ What Keeps Us From “Accepting One Another?”

1. \_\_\_\_\_ - Judging others’ faith by extra-Biblical standards. Romans 14
2. \_\_\_\_\_ - Judging other by external appearance or possessions. 2 Corinthians 5:16; James 2:1-5
3. \_\_\_\_\_ - Judging others based on preconceived notions about them. Luke 6:37

4. \_\_\_\_\_ - Judging others in areas that are impossible for us to assess. 1 Corinthians 4:1-5

◆ **Does “Acceptance” Mean We Are Never To Judge?**

**NO! – We are commanded to judge ...**

1. ... interpersonal conflict in the church. 1 Cor 6:2-5
2. ... immoral behavior in the church. 1 Cor 5:1-6  
1 Timothy 5:20
3. ... those who sin against us. Matthew 18:15-17
4. ... when placed in positions of spiritual responsibility.  
2 Timothy 4:1-3
5. ... to maintain doctrinal purity. 2 Timothy 4:15
6. ... when church unity is threatened. Titus 1:10  
1 Timothy 5:20

◆ **How Can We Grow In “Accepting One Another?”**

1. **Remember** what is at stake!

2. **Refuse** to compare!
3. **Renew** your view of others!

### DESIRE CARD

“I would like to view others in light of their eternity and need instead of by their outward appearance, possessions, status, or abilities.”

(Memorize: 2 Corinthians 5:16)

### Discussion Questions

1. Who has shown real acceptance to you that made a difference in your life? How did they do that?
2. Summarize what it means biblically to accept one another.
3. With which of the four “enemies of acceptance” did you most identify? What is behind our “improper judging” of others?
4. Why is it important that we realize that not all judging is wrong?
5. What steps would God have you take in deepening your **acceptance** of others? How will you know if you are making progress?