

Sermon: God's Accepting Family

Text: [Romans 15:7 ESV](#)

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[Romans 15:7 ESV](#) 7 Therefore welcome one another as Christ has welcomed you, for the glory of God.

Introduction: We never want to accept what is clearly defined in the Bible as not a Christian lifestyle, but we must love and accept sinners and work to help them better know Jesus. Starting back at [Romans 14:2](#) we hear argument about how the strong and weak Christians ought to relate to each other. This acceptance of others has been modeled by Christ himself. We need to live our lives for God, and every relationship should be to His glory and praise (Dunn, p. 846).

We need to accept people who are:

I. _____ (Spiritually)

II. _____ to Love

III. Just Like Us - _____

Conclusion: Acceptance provides for our unity and makes it possible for us to praise God together. It also helps us give a positive example of family to the community. When we meet together to worship and take the Lord's Supper together, it serves as a witness for our soon and sudden-coming Lord. [II Corinthians 6:17-18 ESV](#) (quoting Isaiah) 17 Therefore go out from their midst, and be separate from them, says the Lord, and touch no unclean thing; then I will welcome you, 18 and I will be a father to you, and you shall be sons and daughters to me, says the Lord Almighty."

In "The Whisper Test," Mary Ann Bird writes:

I grew up knowing I was different and I hated it. I was born with a cleft palate, and when I started school, my classmates made it clear to me how I looked to others: a little girl with a misshapen lip, crooked nose, lopsided teeth, and garbled speech.

When schoolmates asked, "What happened to your lip?" I'd tell them I'd fallen and cut it on a piece of glass. Somehow it seemed more acceptable to have suffered an accident than to have been born different. I was convinced that no one outside my family could love me.

There was, however, a teacher in the second grade whom we all adored - Mrs. Leonard was her name. She was short, round, happy - a sparkling lady.

Annually, we had a hearing test...Mrs. Leonard gave the test to everyone in the class, and finally it was my turn. I knew from past years that as we stood against the door and covered one ear, the teacher sitting at her desk would whisper something, and we would repeat it back - things like "The sky is blue" or "Do you have new shoes?" I waited there for those words that God must have put in her mouth, those seven words that changed my life. Mrs. Leonard said, in her whisper, "I wish you were my little girl."

God says to every person deformed by sin,
"I wish you were my child."

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