

The Unity of Strong and Weak Christians, Part 6

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I. Introduction.

- A. Text: Romans 15:7-13.
- B. There are principles for dealing with relationships between weak and strong Christians.
- C. We ought to rejoice with one another in the plan of God.

II. General perspective: the call of this chapter is that Jews and Gentiles have been made one.

- A. This is a positive unity.
- B. We are to cultivate an attitude of praise because of unity.
- C. Strong believers are those who have embraced their freedom from Old Testament law.
- D. The weak are those who do not have freedom from Old Testament ritual.

III. We have to receive one another into fellowship. (Mark 8:32; Acts 17; 27; 28)

- A. It is devastating in the church when we set up criterion why will not receive on another.
- B. We are to receive as Christ received us. (Matthew 11, Ephesians 5, Luke 15:2)
- C. Christ received us for the glory of God, and we should do the same.
- D. If Christ received sinners, we ought to receive others also. (Matthew 10:24)

- 1. Christ received them gladly. (Luke 15, John 16)
- 2. Christ received them in spite of their sin. (Mark 2, Luke 18, Romans 5:8, 1 Timothy 1)
- 3. Christ received sinners impartially. (James 2:1, John 6:37)
- 4. Christ received sinners for the glory of God. (Ephesians 1:2; 3:10)

IV. Old Testament prophecies verify Gentile salvation. (Isaiah 45; 52; Psalm 18:49; 2 Samuel 2:50; Deuteronomy 32:43; Psalm 117:1; Isaiah 11)

Application Questions:

1. What sort of people do you find it most difficult to receive into your fellowship? Explain.

2. Why is it important to view the glory of God as a primary motive for our treatment of others?

3. How will you challenge yourself to receive people like Christ in particular this week? Be specific.
