

ONE ANOTHERING

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ACCEPT THEM?! REALLY?! NOT SURE I CAN.

Ephesians 2:11-22(NIV)

SERIES BIG IDEA:

We love one another by being _____ one _____.

Therefore, accept each other just as Christ has accepted you so that God will be given the glory.

Romans 15:7 (NLT)

¹³But now in Christ Jesus you who once were far away have been brought near by the blood of Christ. ¹⁴For he himself is our peace, who has made the two groups one and has destroyed the barrier, the dividing wall of hostility.

Ephesians 2:13-14 (NIV)

What has it felt like to be accepted by others in the past? What are some words you would use to describe that?

Steps to accepting those who are different than us:

- _____ a core truth about ourselves: it isn't something between _____ that divides us; it is something between us and _____ that divides us.

For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God.

Romans 3:23 (NIV)

- _____ and _____.

Peter replied, "Repent and be baptized, every one of you, in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins. And you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit."

Acts 2:38 (NIV)

- **Pray for a _____ of love in our hearts.**

Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me.

Psalms 51:10 (NIV)

- _____ to the prompting of the Holy Spirit.

If we live by the Spirit, let us also walk by the Spirit.

Galatians 5:25 (NIV)

TEACHING BIG IDEA:

We give glory to _____ when we _____ others in the same way Jesus has accepted us.

What _____ does the Holy Spirit have for you today?

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MY NOTES



TEACHING SUMMARY:

We have all felt what it is like to be excluded and accepted. This isn't lost on Jesus. During His time on earth he experienced times of great acceptance (Matt 21:1-9) and ultimate exclusion (Matt 27). He offered himself as a way to experience ultimate acceptance through his death on the cross and resurrection.

The apostle Paul spoke at length about loving one another and being accepting of one another. Paul had an amazing transformation in his life from being the ultimate excluder to the ultimate includer. We all have the same opportunity to become, toward others, a taste of the acceptance that they could experience in Christ.

We, who are in Christ, have been given the responsibility of accepting others. This isn't optional. This isn't something that we get to choose. It is something that we are to do and God stands prepared to help us do it.

TALK IT OVER:

Talk about a time when you felt excluded. How did you handle that?

Do you believe that Christ has accepted you and others regardless of past failings? Why or why not?

What would make it difficult for you to accept someone else?

Respond to this statement: it isn't something between you and others that divides you, but something between you and God that divides you.

Are you willing to allow Jesus to guide your steps in accepting others? Why or why not?

How can we be praying for you?

FURTHER READING:

Day 1: John 3:3-8

Day 3: Romans 10:8-13

Day 5: Romans 13:8-10

Day 2: Romans 3:20-24

Day 4: Romans 14:1-12

Day 6: Colossians 3:1-17