

1A ONE ANOTHER

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Week 4 – Accept One Another (Rom. 15:7)

Introduction:

Romans 15:7

Accept one another, then, just as Christ accepted you, in order to bring praise to God.

“The most segregated hour of the week in America is 11 o'clock on Sunday morning.” – Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., 1963

Definition of “In-Group Bias”

The tendency to give preferential treatment to people I consider to be “like me.”

Embracing the Third Option: Six Realities*

1. Acknowledge our _____
2. Rename others as our _____
3. Give “in group” _____ to our “out groups”
4. Acknowledge each other’s _____
5. Be a listener and not just a _____
6. Trust our heart with those _____

The Big Idea:

Culture divides us into “us versus them.” The third option is to embrace one another as diverse and co-equal expressions of the image of God.

*(*Much credit goes to Pastor Miles McPherson from The Rock Church for the influence of his book *The Third Option* in the development of this message. Please consider reading the book!)*

QUESTIONS FOR LIFE GROUPS AND PERSONAL REFLECTION:

Personal Life:

1. Can you think of a time in your earlier life when you felt “less than accepted” by a person or group you wished would embrace you? Share about that experience and how you worked through it...

Ponderings:

2. Coming out of 2020, where America's racial tensions became a fixture on the nightly news and on social media, how is the Church of Jesus Christ uniquely poised to begin leading the way toward racial reconciliation where division exists? Discuss...
3. In what sense is the Gospel of Jesus Christ truly the “cure” for racism? Try to be specific...
4. Of the six major points highlighted in the weekend message, which one(s) felt the most practical or meaningful for you and why?
 - Acknowledging blind spots
 - Renaming others as “brothers and sisters”
 - Giving “in group” love to your “out groups”
 - Acknowledging each other's color
 - Be a listener and not just a talker
 - Trusting our hearts with those “not like us”
5. Did the illustration of “right privilege” (righties experiencing the world a little differently than lefties) make sense to you in terms of acknowledging blind spots? If so, how did the idea specifically speak to you? Discuss...

Promptings:

6. In the confidentiality of your life group, can you identify any “in group bias” or “out group discrimination” that you're currently struggling with? How does the current political climate contribute to this struggle, if at all? As a follower of Christ and citizen of His kingdom, how will you personally apply the main focus of Romans 15:7 on the road ahead?