

**Sermon: Worshiping and Welcoming.**  
**Series: *The Heart of Worship.***

**Scripture: Romans 15:1-7.**  
**Date: May 10, 2026**

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**OBSERVATION** -- As a group, talk through and summarize the passage. Think through *Who, What, Where, When, How, Why* questions together.

**INTERPRETATION** -- Answer these questions together:

**3. What does this passage teach us about us?**

- a) Do you feel welcomed in this church (accepted, received, brought into a family, shown kindness, etc.) or out of place? What about in this small group? Explain your answer.
- b) How have you typically responded to those with different convictions, preferences, or opinions from your own? Read Romans 14:13-23 and compare your own responses to what Paul describes here.

**2. What does this passage teach us about God?**

- a) Read v. 5-6. Paul makes a connection between our worship of God and our welcoming of one another. Why must we always be both worshiping and welcoming; why can't you have one without the other? Consider the nature of God as you answer.
- b) In verse 4-5, Paul speaks of both scripture and God giving us endurance and encouragement. What scripture comes to mind that helps you to value unity and peace in the body of Christ?
- c) One of the ways that our welcoming and our worship go hand in hand is that we can only worship God in unity. Do you agree with this? Think: How does true worship always draw us toward one another rather than push us apart?

**3. What does this passage teach us about grace/salvation? How does it point to Christ?**

- a) Read 15:7. Jesus is our example for welcoming. In what way does Jesus still welcome you when you are weak in faith? Do you actively receive his welcome each day?
- b) It's not just about Jesus being our example. Read v.3 again. We have all reproached God, but Jesus took those reproaches on himself and paid the penalty we owe. How does this guilt-free cleansing give us the power (not just the example) to seek unity and welcome/receive others?

**APPLICATION**

- a) In this passage we are called to "bear with" (v.1) and "build up" (v.2). What are some real ways that this small group can bear with each other and build each other up, even in the area of strengthening our faith in Christ and challenging our consciences? Keep going...what about outside of the small group setting.

**PRAYER**

- Praise God for his story of welcoming us and the endurance and encouragement that brings.
- Confess ways you have failed to welcome others and accept them as they are.
- Thank Jesus for taking our reproaches of God onto himself that we may be forgiven.
- Ask the Holy Spirit to give you power and love to bear with and build up others.