

"Discipleship — Practicing Relationships that Transform"

Ephesians 4:11-16

Matthew 28:19-20 Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit,²⁰ teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age.”.

Eph 4:11-13 And he gave the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the shepherds and teachers,¹² to equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ,¹³ until we all attain to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to mature manhood, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ,

Eph 4:14-15 so that we may no longer be children, tossed to and fro by the waves and carried about by every wind of doctrine, by human cunning, by craftiness in deceitful schemes. ¹⁵ Rather, speaking the truth in love, we are to grow up in every way into him who is the head, into Christ,

Eph 4:16 from whom the whole body, joined and held together by every joint with which it is equipped, when each part is working properly, makes the body grow so that it builds itself up in love.

Discipleship - is the responsibility of every believer to lead other to Christ, helping them to know Christ better and trust Him more in practical aspects of life in the context of intentional, regular, and intimate relationships.

John 13:34-35 A new commandment I give to you, **that you love one another: just as I have loved you**, you also are to **love one another**. ³⁵ By this all people will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another.”

True love is caring for others, born out of our humble view of ourselves and reverence for those around us.

"Discipleship — Practicing Relationships that Transform" | Part 2

Accept One Another

Romans 15:7

Matthew 9:11-13 And when the Pharisees saw this, they said to his disciples, “Why does your teacher eat with tax collectors and sinners?” ¹² But when he heard it, he said, “Those who are well have no need of a physician, but those who are sick. ¹³ Go and learn what this means: ‘I desire mercy, and not sacrifice.’ For I came not to call the righteous, but sinners.”

Romans 14:6-8 The one who observes the day, observes it in honor of the Lord. The one who eats, eats in honor of the Lord, since he gives thanks to God, while the one who abstains, abstains in honor of the Lord and gives thanks to God. ⁷ For none of us lives to himself, and none of us dies to himself. ⁸ For if we live, we live to the Lord, and if we die, we die to the Lord. So then, whether we live or whether we die, we are the Lord’s.

Romans 14:15-19 For if your brother is grieved by what you eat, you are no longer walking in love. By what you eat, do not destroy the one for whom Christ died.¹⁶ So do not let what you regard as good be spoken of as evil.¹⁷ For the kingdom of God is not a matter of eating and drinking but of righteousness and peace and joy in the Holy Spirit.¹⁸ Whoever thus serves Christ is acceptable to God and approved by men.¹⁹ **So then let us pursue what makes for peace and for mutual upbuilding.**

Romans 15:1-2 We who are strong have an obligation to bear with the failings of the weak, and not to please ourselves.² Let each of us please his neighbor for his good, **to build him up.**

Romans 15:7 Wherefore, accept one another, just as Christ also accepted us¹ to the glory of God. [NASB].

I. The Nature of Salvation is the Reason for Accepting One Another

Romans 15:7 Wherefore, **accept** one another, **just as Christ also accepted us** to the glory of God. [NASB].

- **We are not saved by our merits**

Eph 2:4-6 But God, being rich in mercy, because of His great love with which He loved us,⁵ even when we were dead in our transgressions, made us alive together with Christ (by grace you have been saved),⁶ and raised us up with Him, and seated us with Him in the heavenly *places*, in Christ Jesus,

- Salvation by grace is our assurance of salvation.
- Salvation by grace is our hope and joy.
- Salvation by grace is our strength to accept others who are saved.

1 Corinthians 4:6-7 Now these things, brethren, I have figuratively applied to myself and Apollos for your sakes, that in us you might learn not to exceed what is written, in order that no one of you might become arrogant in behalf of one against the other.⁷ For who regards you as superior? **And what do you have that you did not receive? But if you did receive it, why do you boast as if you had not received it?**

Romans 14:1-3 Now accept the one who is weak in faith, but not for the purpose of passing judgment on his opinions. 2 One man has faith that he may eat all things, but he who is weak eats vegetables only. 3 Let not him who eats regard with contempt him who does not eat, and let not him who does not eat judge him who eats, **for God has accepted him.**

- **We are saved forever**

Hebrews 10:14-17 For by one offering He has perfected for all time those who are sanctified. 15 And the Holy Spirit also bears witness to us; for after saying, "This is the covenant that I will make with them after those days, declares the Lord: I will put my laws on their hearts, and write them on their minds," 17 then he adds, "I will remember their sins and their lawless deeds no more."

Romans 8:33-34 Who shall bring any charge against God's elect? It is God who justifies.³⁴ Who is to condemn? Christ Jesus is the one who died—more than that, who was raised—who is at the right hand of God, who indeed is interceding for us.

¹ Some Mss "you".

- **We are saved completely**

Eph 1:11 In him we have obtained an inheritance, having been predestined according to the purpose of him who works all things according to the counsel of his will,

Hebrews 2:11 For he who sanctifies and those who are sanctified all have one source. That is why he is not ashamed to call them brothers,

Romans 8:14-17 For all who are led by the Spirit of God are sons of God. ¹⁵ For you did not receive the spirit of slavery to fall back into fear, but you have received the Spirit of adoption as sons, by whom we cry, “Abba! Father!” ¹⁶ The Spirit himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God, ¹⁷ and if children, then heirs—heirs of God and fellow heirs with Christ, provided we suffer with him in order that we may also be glorified with him.

Eph 4:31-32 Let all bitterness and wrath and anger and clamor and slander be put away from you, along with all malice. ³² Be kind to one another, tenderhearted, **forgiving one another, as God in Christ forgave you.**

Col 3:12-13 Put on then, as God’s chosen ones, holy and beloved, compassionate hearts, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience, ¹³ bearing with one another and, if one has a complaint against another, forgiving each other; **as the Lord has forgiven you, so you also must forgive.**

- **We are saved because of Christ’s sacrifice**

1 Peter 2:21 For to this you have been called, because **Christ also suffered for you, leaving you an example, so that you might follow in his steps.**

1 Peter 3:18 For Christ also suffered once for sins, the righteous for the unrighteous, **that he might bring us to God, being put to death in the flesh but made alive in the spirit,**

John 15:15 No longer do I call you servants, for the servant does not know what his master is doing; but I have called you friends, for all that I have heard from my Father I have made known to you.

Galatians 6:2 Bear one another’s burdens, and so fulfill the law of Christ.

Romans 15:7 Wherefore, **accept** one another, **just as Christ also accepted us** to the glory of God. [NASB]

II. The Nature of the Church — Creates an Environment of Mutual Acceptance

Romans 15:7 Wherefore, **accept one another,** just as Christ also accepted us to the glory of God. [NASB].

Romans 12:4-5 For as in one body we have many members, and the members do not all have the same function, ⁵ so we, though many, are one body in Christ, and individually **members one of another.**

Eph 4:25 Therefore, having put away falsehood, let each one of you speak the truth with his neighbor, for we are **members one of another.**

1 Corinthians 12:12-13 For just as the body is one and has many members, and all the members of the body, though many, are one body, so it is with Christ. ¹³ For in one Spirit we were all baptized into one body—Jews or Greeks, slaves or free—and all were made to drink of one Spirit.

1 Corinthians 12:14-17 For the body does not consist of one member but of many. ¹⁵ If the foot should say, "Because I am not a hand, I do not belong to the body," that would not make it any less a part of the body. ¹⁶ And if the ear should say, "Because I am not an eye, I do not belong to the body," that would not make it any less a part of the body. ¹⁷ If the whole body were an eye, where would be the sense of hearing? If the whole body were an ear, where would be the sense of smell?

1 Corinthians 12:18-21 But as it is, God arranged the members in the body, each one of them, as he chose. ¹⁹ If all were a single member, where would the body be? ²⁰ As it is, there are many parts, yet one body. ²¹ The eye cannot say to the hand, "I have no need of you," nor again the head to the feet, "I have no need of you."

1 Corinthians 12:22-25 On the contrary, the parts of the body that seem to be weaker are indispensable, ²³ and on those parts of the body that we think less honorable we bestow the greater honor, and our unpresentable parts are treated with greater modesty, ²⁴ which our more presentable parts do not require. But God has so composed the body, giving greater honor to the part that lacked it, ²⁵ that there may be no division in the body, but that the members may have the same care for one another.

III. The Nature of Life in Christ is the Catalyst of Mutual Acceptance

Romans 15:7 Wherefore, **accept** one another, just as Christ also accepted us **to the glory of God**. [NASB].

Romans 15:5-7 Now may the God who gives perseverance and encouragement grant you to **be of the same mind with one another** according to Christ Jesus; ⁶ **that with one accord you may with one voice glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ**. ⁷ Wherefore, **accept one another**, just as Christ also accepted us to the glory of God. [NASB]

Romans 15:5 May the God of endurance and encouragement grant you to live **in such harmony with one another, in accord with Christ Jesus**,

Eph 4:1-3 I therefore, a prisoner for the Lord, urge you to walk in a manner worthy of the calling to which you have been called, ² with all humility and gentleness, with patience, **bearing with one another in love**, ³ eager to maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace.

Eph 5:18-21 And do not get drunk with wine, for that is debauchery, but **be filled with the Spirit**, ¹⁹ **addressing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody to the Lord with your heart**, ²⁰ **giving thanks always and for everything to God the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ**, ²¹ **submitting to one another out of reverence for Christ**.

Col 3:12-13 Put on then, **as God's chosen ones, holy and beloved**, compassionate hearts, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience, ¹³ **bearing with one another and, if one has a complaint against another, forgiving each other; as the Lord has forgiven you, so you also must forgive**.

Romans 15:7 Wherefore, accept one another, just as Christ also accepted us to the glory of God..

To accept one another is to consider everyone who has been saved as dear and close family in Christ Jesus regardless of their shortcomings and level of maturity, so that, by showing them sincere love and care, without exaltation or condemnation, you help them sacrificially and patiently to strengthen their trust in Christ in the practical matters of life.

Discipleship - is the responsibility of every believer to lead other to Christ, helping them to know Christ better and trust Him more in practical aspects of life in the context of intentional, regular, and intimate relationships.

Conclusions for prayer

- Discipleship is the main purpose and meaning of life on this earth for people saved by Christ.
- To lead people to faith in Christ and to establish them in it, it is necessary to be driven by the love of Jesus Christ.
- The edification of souls in Jesus Christ is impossible without heartfelt acceptance of them as our brothers and sisters in Him.
- The acceptance of one another is connected to the nature of salvation, the nature of the Church, and the nature of Christ's life in us.