

The Welcoming Church

Welcome the Fatherless

James 1:19–27

The Lord's Day Morning

November 8, 2020

Orphan Sunday

Q: What is a welcoming church?

A: A welcoming church is a community of believers who love each other with such great commitment that the world identifies them as disciples of Jesus (Jn. 13:34–35). Because they love Jesus and their neighbors, they obey his command to make disciples (Jn. 14:21; Mt. 28:18–20). The welcoming church is outward-focused, putting the needs of others ahead of their own (Phil. 2:4) in an effort to remove all unnecessary barriers to the gospel (1 Cor. 9:19–23). Therefore, members are alert to every opportunity God gives them to show uncommon kindness, courtesy, and hospitality to all people in their path, serving their needs, and inviting them to consider the claims of Christ (Heb. 13:2; Jas. 1:22–27; Mt. 25:40). In the age of “cancel culture,” the welcoming church provides a safe place for people to hear the transforming truth and ask the hard questions about the Christian faith (Ro. 14:1–3). The responsibility of the welcoming church does not rest only on a few, but on every member of the church (Ro.15:7; Eph. 4:11–16).

1. Welcome the Word that rules on _____.
2. Welcome the woman who feels _____.
3. Welcome the orphan who needs _____.