

The Welcoming Church

Welcome the Weak

Romans 14:1-3

The Lord's Day Morning

November 22, 2020

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. A ‘weak’ Christian is one whose own _____ restricts him from certain practices that _____ does not.
2. Welcoming the weak is an application of the command to “_____ one another with brotherly _____.” (Rom. 12:10)
3. To be a welcoming church we must make distinctions between _____ and _____ in both _____ and _____.
4. To be a welcoming church we must remember that the _____ (vs. 3) and _____ (vs. 15) for people we disagree with.