

The Welcoming Church

Welcome One Another

Romans 15:1–7

The Lord's Day Morning

November 15, 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).

When we welcome one another in obedience to Scripture, three good things will happen:

1. We will _____ spiritual _____ (1-4).

2. We will _____ church _____ (5-6).

3. We will _____ God _____ (7).