

Series: Community and Diversity; *Sermon:* **Jesus' Example**
Delivered by: **Dr. Josh Moody**, senior pastor
Date: **December 11, 2016**

Bible text explored: Romans 15:1-7

¹We who are strong have an obligation to bear with the failings of the weak, and not to please ourselves. ²Let each of us please his neighbor for his good, to build him up. ³For Christ did not please himself, but as it is written, "The reproaches of those who reproached you fell on me." ⁴For whatever was written in former days was written for our instruction, that through endurance and through the encouragement of the Scriptures we might have hope. ⁵May the God of endurance and encouragement grant you to live in such harmony with one another, in accord with Christ Jesus, ⁶that together you may with one voice glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ. ⁷Therefore welcome one another as Christ has welcomed you, for the glory of God. [ESV]

Review and application:

1. Pastor Moody launched his sermon from Paul's summary statement in the last sentence of this passage (v. 7.). It calls us to welcome each other in our Christian fellowship as Christ has welcomed us. What does the welcoming concept include?

What are we told will be the outcome of this mutual acceptance?

In the overall context of chapters 14 and 15, welcoming acceptance applies to all matters of secondary importance, but does not extend to essential gospel truths and biblically declared moral standards of behavior.

2. What (v.1) is *bearing* with the failings of the weak? Is it passively "putting up" with the scruples of others or sympathetically and patiently encouraging strengthening of their faith?

Is doing this kind of bearing just something Paul commended or is it more compelling than that?

3. To what lengths (vv. 2-3) did Christ go to please the Father and bear our failings? (See 1 Pet. 2:24)

Will a focus on Christ increase "outsider awareness," and cause issues of race, class, and culture to fade into the background? (See 1 Cor. 2:2 and 10:32-11:1.)

4. How (v. 4) is your reading of Scripture encouraging you to endure in putting pleasing others ahead of your own preferences?

5. How (vv. 5-6) might God answer prayers for harmony that brings him glory by stepping in to change hearts?

Are you open to seeing one changed heart be your own?