

Sermon Notes

Pastor Jon Cooke

Sermon Series: Christians Connecting in Community

Title: Welcome One Another

Scripture Reading: Ephesians 2:11-22

1. The Biblical Mandate: Welcome, accept or receive one another. It is warmly receiving brothers and sisters in Christ into our fellowship without distinction.
2. The Model: As Christ has welcomed, accepted or received you.
Why do Christians struggle to demonstrate acceptance to other Christians?
 - A. The fear of getting hurt. Accepting requires some risk and vulnerability on those reaching out to accept them as Christ has accepted us.
 - B. We are comfortable with our current relational networks.
 - C. We possess judgmental and partial attitudes or are influenced by the worldly models of conditional acceptance.
 - D. Not willing to commit the time and energy it takes to receive others.
 - E. We have forgotten what it's like to be new in a place and seeking fellowship with other believers.
 - F. We can be, at times, selfish and proud. We can possess a high estimation of ourselves to the point where we act as if others aren't worthy of our acceptance.

What happens when we receive others?

- A. There is unity in the body. The Holy Spirit is free to operate with power.
- B. Christians will not be turned away to find acceptance elsewhere.
- C. The body will grow.
- D. The testimony of the church will be strong before the world.
- E. God will be glorified and His glory will be manifested in the church.