



Sunday, March 10, 2019  
Pastor Don Denyes

## **Intro to Romans 15:7**

When it comes to how we relate to one another in the church, Christ is the standard. To be sure, Christ did not endorse sin (Mark 1:15), but He did eat with sinners (Luke 15:1-2). Likewise, we ought to extend a great welcome to one another, but be frank about the things that are essential to Christ. He says on the one hand, “Come to me, all who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest” (Matt. 11:28). On the other hand, He is honest with the those who would come after Him, “If anyone would come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross and follow me” (Mark 8:34).

So, we have to be clear on the essentials of the gospel, but on those issues where there is disagreement over matters of conscience, we need to be patient and bear with one another. Our disposition should always be to welcome people and demonstrate the love of God in truth to them. Unfortunately, at some times and places, non-essentials have become more important in the life of the church. In those cases, we must repent, and welcome people as Christ did, not as we prefer.

## **Context**

Romans 14-15 falls in the larger section of application that began in Romans 12. Following a lengthy exposition of the gospel (chapters 1-8), and the faithfulness of God (9-11), Paul turns to the implications of those glorious truths. The big idea that begins in chapter 14 is the idea that love ought to govern our relationships as Christians and not judgment. For those who earnestly claim the name of Christ, we ought to welcome one another rather than condemn them. This idea comes to its conclusion in 15:7.

**Read and Reflect** *(Use this section to write down any thoughts you had on the sermon. Make sure to note any questions you had about something in the passage or in the sermon.)*

Read Romans 14:1-4; 15:5-7

“Welcome One Another”

Admonition

“Welcome one another...”

Illustration

“...just as Christ welcomed you...” (cf. Eph. 4:32-5:2)

Motivation

“...in order to bring praise to God.”

## Discuss

- 1) Why is it so easy for us to develop critical attitudes toward other people?
- 2) What are the “essentials” or “non-negotiables” of the gospel that Christians must agree on?
- 3) What are some “non-essentials” or “disputable matters” that tend to divide us?
- 4) Have you found it difficult to have honest conversations about disputable matters without devolving into criticism or personal attacks? Why do you think that is/is not the case?
- 5) What are some practical steps we can take to be more welcoming at South in a God-honoring way?