

LIII. Strong and Weak Believers in Unity - Pt 4 - Rejoicing in God's Plan of Redemption

A. Basic Instruction - vs 7

1. Therefore receive one another,

a. *proslambano* - to take to oneself, use (food), lead (aside), admit (to friendship or hospitality):--receive, take (unto).

i. intensified form of *lambano*

ii. used in a positive sense as in Ro 14:1,3

b. Used to describe acceptance in the fullest and deepest sense

i. to treat each other with love and understanding

ii. Used of

- Pricilla and Aquila taking Apollos aside - Ac 18:26

- Natives showing extraordinary kindness to those shipwrecked off the Isle of Malta - Ac 28:2

- Philemon told to receive Onesimus as you would Paul - Phi 17

2. the greatest illustration

a. just as Christ also received us,

i. the Pharisees criticized Him for eating with sinners - Lk 15:2

ii. He is our pattern - a disciple is not above his teacher nor a slave above his master - Mt 10:24

iii. Demonstrated through the actions of Eph 4:32-5:2

iv. To not accept another with love is an affront to Christ - Mt 18:21-35

b. Characteristics of Christ's acceptance

i. accepts them joyously - Lk 15:3-7; Mt 11:28; - 18:6

ii. accepts them in spite of their sin - Ro 5:8; 1 Ti 1:15; - Mt 9:10-13

iii. accepts them impartially - Jo 6:37; Ro 2:11; Ac 10:34-35; Jas 2:1-4,8-9

iv. accepts them to the glory of God. - Eph 1:5-6; 3:20-21; Phil 2:9-11; Mt 18:5

B. Biblical Illustrations - vs 8-12

1. Paul using scripture to show that God's plan was always to bring Gentile and Jew into the Kingdom

a. Paul's emphasis from the beginning of the epistle

i. Christ is God

ii. his job was to bring faith among the Gentiles Ro 1:4-5; 13-14,16

b. Paul chastens self righteous Jews - Ro 2:24

i. quoting Is 52:5 God's name is Blasted

ii. Instead of being like their Messiah, a light to the nations - Is 49:6

iii. With-in Ro 9-11 focusing on the Israel - no distinction - 10:12-13; 11:11-12,25

2. Christ was born a Jew - Mt 5:17

- a. Now I say that Jesus Christ has become a servant to the circumcision for the truth of God,
- b. to confirm the promises made to the fathers, - Mt 15:24; Joh 1:11; Ac 3:25-26; 13:46; Ro 3:3; 2Co 1:20

3. Then the Gentile

- a. and that the Gentiles might glorify God for His mercy,
- b. as it is written:
 - i. "For this reason I will confess to You among the Gentiles, And sing to Your name." - Ps 18:49; Jo 10:16
 - ii. "Rejoice, O Gentiles, with His people!" - De 32:43
 - iii. "Praise the LORD, all you Gentiles! Laud Him, all you peoples!" - Ps 117:1
 - iv. "There shall be a root of Jesse; And He who shall rise to reign over the Gentiles, In Him the Gentiles shall hope." - Isa 11:1,10; Re 5:5; 22:16

C. Benedictory Prayer - vs 13

- 1. Now may the God of hope - 1 Pe 1:8
 - a. hope based on what he has done and said - Ps 16:9-10; 42:5; 71:5; 78:7; 119:49,116; 130:5
 - b. fill you with - Ro 14:17;
 - i. all joy - a consequence of being filled with His Spirit - Ps 146:5; Pr 10:28; Ro 5:2
 - ii. and peace - a consequence of trusting - Ps 4:8; Ro 5:1; Phil 4:7
 - b. in believing - Heb 11:1,6; 1 Pe 1:8
- 2. that you may abound in hope
- 3. by the power of the Holy Spirit.