

Welcome One Another As Christ Has Welcomed You (Romans 15:1-7)

When all a church has in common is Christ, and yet it loves and welcomes one another in Christ, God looks supremely glorious.

The Basis of Unity

The basis of the church's unity is the **gospel**. We must welcome one another as God has welcomed us (15:7). So how has God welcomed us?

- God has welcomed us **by grace** – He chose us by grace (11:5-6), justified us by grace (3:23-24), and keeps us by grace (5:2).
- God has welcomed us **through faith** – not because we are righteous, or try our best to be righteous, or promise to be righteous, but only because we trust in the righteousness of Christ (1:16-17; 3:21-22; 4:4-5; 5:1).
- God has welcomed us **in Christ** – because of His perfect life and atoning death (3:23-26; 5:18-19).

Therefore our welcome of one another must be **by grace, through faith, in Christ**.

The Means of Unity

How do we actively pursue and maintain gospel-centered unity in the face of so many potential disruptions?

- By **forgoing** our **freedom** for the sake of the **weak** (15:1).
- By **following** the **way** of **Christ** (15:2-3).
- By **feeding** upon the **Word** of **God** (15:4-5).

The Aim of Unity

The ultimate goal of unity is the **glory** of **God**. And God is most glorified when a people with nothing in common but **Christ** love and welcome one another.