

Sunday , February 11, 2007

Rules of Engagement - Week 1: Acceptance

Romans 15:1-8

We who are strong ought to bear with the failings of the weak and not to please ourselves. 2Each of us should please his neighbor for his good, to build him up. 3For even Christ did not please himself but, as it is written: "The insults of those who insult you have fallen on me." 4For everything that was written in the past was written to teach us, so that through endurance and the encouragement of the Scriptures we might have hope. 5May the God who gives endurance and encouragement give you a spirit of unity among yourselves as you follow Christ Jesus, 6so that with one heart and mouth you may glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ. 7Accept one another, then, just as Christ accepted you, in order to bring praise to God. 8For I tell you that Christ has become a servant of the Jews on behalf of God's truth, to confirm the promises made to the patriarchs

Acceptance: Receiving someone into your life "as is"

I. The Acceptance Factor

1. Acceptance is one of the greatest _____ of the human heart.

2. God designed us to _____ towards acceptance.

3. Acceptance has shaped how we view _____ and _____.

4. Acceptance creates _____ and influence creates _____.

II. The Acceptance Lens

1. See the _____.

2. Learn to accept those who are _____.

Romans 5:8

But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us.

3. Choose to build _____, not _____.

• God is more concerned with your winning a _____ than winning an _____.

4. Realize that acceptance is _____.

1 John 4:20-21

If anyone says, "I love God," yet hates his brother, he is a liar. For anyone who does not love his brother, whom he has seen, cannot love God, whom he has not seen. 21And he has given us this command: Whoever loves God must also love his brother.

• Our vertical relationship with _____ is measured by the quality of our horizontal relationship with his _____.

5. Recognize that acceptance brings _____