

DNA – Accepted

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Open in Prayer.

- Acceptance is the common human longing.
 - We all struggle with lies that in order to be accepted we must belong to a certain group or behave in a certain way. However, believing the lies won't get you accepted, they will get you enslaved.
 - What lies are you believing about acceptance?
 - What does Scripture actually teach us about acceptance?

Read Genesis 1:26-28 ESV

- What did Adam and Eve do in order to gain acceptance from God?
- God blesses Adam and Eve before they have even done anything. All they have to do is live out who they are, who God created them to be.
- Our acceptance is not determined by what we do, but on what God has done. Do you struggle with accepting this truth?
- What is the purpose of our acceptance? (To spread His glory to the ends of the earth.)

Read Genesis 11:1-7 CSB

- The Tower of Babel is in direct rebellion of the command God gave Adam and Eve in the Garden.

Read Acts 2:5-9 CSB.

- The Spirit of God transforms what is being said so that it is understood by all the people in their own languages. Our ethnicity/language/diversity is not checked at the door. It is celebrated and used to reverse the Tower of Babel.
- What is unique about your ethnicity/culture that you can leverage for God's Kingdom?

Read Romans 15:7 CSB

- Why should we accept one another?
 - Read verse 6. He is tying in this verse. We are to be of one mind and one voice, express unity within our diversity.
 - Recall a time when you were unified with a brother or sister in Christ, despite differences. What was the situation? Did you encounter difficulties? What was the outcome? What enabled your unity?
 - The acceptance we have for each other communicates an intense declaration of belonging. We belong to each other because we belong to Christ.
 - When the world, that isn't a part of God's family, sees us, what do they see? Do they see a unified and diverse family? If not, how can we bring this about?
- The reality of our acceptance sets us free to welcome and accepts others into the family of God.
 - In order to have this mutual acceptance, we must lay down our preferences. We have to consider others. Think through these questions... What did Jesus do for us? What was the cost that Christ paid for us? What was the intended purpose? Are we holding on to our preferences too tightly?

- Consider 2 Corinthian 5:16-21; the ministry of reconciliation. How are we going to be ambassadors when we are fighting with each other? How are we going to show the great love of Jesus when we can't even love each other?
- How can you practice the ministry of reconciliation in your home? At work? At school?
- Mutual acceptance based on what Christ has done is a tutor to the world to show them what true, genuine love looks like.
 - We have a genetic predisposition to love because it's in us. God is love and we are made in His image. However, there's a battle between flesh and spirit, so we have to feed the spirit.
 - How do we feed the spirit?

Soul-tattoo: Every time we think acceptance isn't easy, remember; Christ accepted us.