

Answer Key:

Bottom Line about Accepting Others:

- acceptance / approval
- person
- love
- you
- Love
- spite

Accepting One another...

1. command
2. special care
3. ignoring
4. Christ

Four characteristics of Christ accepting you

- Joy
 - spite
 - impartially
 - glory
5. glorifying

SHARE

Part 4

“Accept!”

Romans 15:7 GWT

"Therefore, accept each other in the same way that Christ accepted you. He did this to bring glory to God."

Introductory Statement

Have you ever felt rejected when you wanted to belong? It can be very hurtful. God made us to be in relationship with one another. God's Word leaves no room for superiority thinking. Believers are called to be accepting of one another with the standard set by Christ himself, realizing that there are the weak and the strong, the strugglers and the achievers. Accepting includes making others feel they belong.

Galatians 3:26-29 NIV

"So, in Christ Jesus you are all children of God through faith, for all of you who were baptized into Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ. There is neither Jew nor Gentile, neither slave nor free, nor is there male and female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus. If you belong to Christ, then you are Abraham's seed, and heirs according to the promise."

Bottom Line about Accepting Others:

- Do you understand the difference between _____ and _____?
- You can accept someone without approving of everything that _____ does.

We are to accept everybody; we are not to approve everything everybody does!

"So no matter what people do or who they do it with or how they do it, or how long they do it, you are to _____ them.

You are to accept them!

- God loves you, but it does not mean he approves of everything _____ do.
- _____ is not saying I approve of everything you do.
- Love is saying I accept you in _____ of what you do."

What makes the idea of acceptance difficult is our differences.

- We are different in *personalities*.
- We are different in *gender*.
- We are different in our *spiritual growth*.
- We are different in how *we were raised*.
- We are different in our *convictions and beliefs* about various things.
- We are different in our *interests*.
- We are different in *how we communicate*.
- We are different in our own *weaknesses and strengths*.
- We are different in *our preferences*.
- We are different in some of *our values*.

If we do not handle our differences well, they can easily divide us and instead of accepting, we start rejecting one another, pushing each other away.

Accepting One another...

Romans 15:7 NIV

"Accept one another, then, just as Christ accepted you, in order to bring praise to God."

1. Accepting one another is a _____.

1 John 4:7-9 NIV

"Dear friends, let us love one another, for love comes from God.

Everyone who loves has been born of God and knows God.

Whoever does not love does not know God, because God is love.

This is how God showed his love among us: He sent his one and only Son into the world that we might live through him."

2. Accepting one another is to receive others with _____!

Ephesians 4:12, 16 NCV

"Christ gave those gifts to prepare God's holy people for the work of serving, to make the body of Christ stronger.

The whole body depends on Christ, and all the parts of the body are joined and held together. Each part does its own work to make the whole body grow and be strong with love."

3. Accepting one another is not _____ the person's sin.

Romans 3:23 CSB

"For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God."

Sin is nothing to be encouraged or celebrated!

4. Accepting one another is based on how _____ accepted you.

John 3:16 NKJV

"For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life."

Four characteristics of Christ accepting you

- Jesus accepted you with _____!

Luke 15:3-7 CSB

"He told them this parable: "What man among you, who has 100 sheep and loses one of them, does not leave the 99 in the open field^[a] and go after the lost one until he finds it? When he has found it, he joyfully puts it on his shoulders, and coming home, he calls his friends and neighbors together, saying to them, 'Rejoice with me, because I have found my lost sheep!' I tell you, in the same way, there will be more joy in heaven over one sinner who repents than over 99 righteous people who don't need repentance."

- Jesus accepted you in _____ of your sin.

Romans 5:8 NIV

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

1 Timothy 1:15 NLT

"This is a trustworthy saying, and everyone should accept it: "Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners"—and I am the worst of them all."

- Jesus accepted you _____.

Romans 2:11 NLT

"For God does not show favoritism."

John 6:37 GNT

"Everyone whom my Father gives me will come to me. I will never turn away anyone who comes to me,"

- Jesus accepted you to God's _____.

Ephesians 3:20-21 Message

God can do anything, you know—far more than you could ever imagine or guess or request in your wildest dreams! He does it not by pushing us around but by working within us, his Spirit deeply and gently within us. Glory to God in the church! Glory to God in the Messiah, in Jesus! Glory down all the generations! Glory through all millennia! Oh, yes!

5. Accepting one another is for the purpose of

_____ God.

Luke 18:43 NKJV

"And immediately he received his sight, and followed Him, glorifying God. And all the people, when they saw it, gave praise to God."

Closing

You may not feel accepted by some people. They have rejected you and ridiculed you and now you feel abandoned, isolated, discarded and banned in some way. God wants to accept you, He wants to receive you to Himself, He wants to adopt you into His family. You are wanted by Him. You are accepted by Him. When the service is over Ben and some others will be up front so you can talk to them today about this acceptance God offers.