

FAMILY

values

you can
sit with us

Introduction

This week we're beginning our series on Family Values with "You Can Sit With Us". This value stems from Romans 15:7 (NLT), "*Therefore, accept each other just as Christ has accepted you so that God will be given glory.*"

More than a church or even a community, God has called us all to be family, a part of His family. As a family, it's important to stay connected! That way, we can strengthen and share our lives, the highs and the lows with each other.

To do that, we first need to understand that we are a family. The fruit of grasping that concept is to realize that this is home. And what do we do with the family and home that we love? We take care of them! It's always good to find ways to serve others, to be involved in the celebrations that happen in the family and to empower one another in love.

Galatians 3:26-29

²⁶ For you are all children of God through faith in Christ Jesus. ²⁷ And all who have been united with Christ in baptism have put on Christ, like putting on new clothes. ²⁸ There is no longer Jew or Gentile, slave or free, male and female. For you are all one in Christ Jesus. ²⁹ And now that you belong to Christ, you are the true children of Abraham. You are his heirs, and God's promise to Abraham belongs to you.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Put the value “You can sit with us” in your own words.
2. The key word in the passage Romans 15:7 is **“accept”** which means: *“to receive kindly or hospitably and to treat with kindness; ‘to welcome’ in the broadest sense; to receive wholeheartedly, to warmly welcome to yourself, to grant admission into your heart, to look beyond anything superficial and to be willing and open to build relationships.”*
How does your concept of **“accept”** compare to the one above?
 - Can you share a personal example of how you fully accepted someone or when you understand that someone accepts you for who you are?
3. The key phrase for understanding and practicing acceptance is the phrase, “just as Christ accepted you.”
 - Can you share with the group when you personally experienced Christ’s full acceptance? What did you have to do in order to be welcomed into His heart?
4. The enemy of acceptance is contempt: “the feeling that a person or a thing is beneath us, not worthy of our respect and acceptance.”
 - Can you share with the group what kind of people or behaviors do you find difficult to accept?
 - How do think that understanding and living in God’s forgiveness would help you be more kind and accepting of others?

I pray that at TC we would model our value of “You can sit with us” and accept and welcome one another wholeheartedly just as Christ has accepted us.

Romans 15:7 (MSG)

“So reach out and welcome one another to God’s glory. Jesus did it; now you do it!”

Let’s close in prayer.