

Relational Needs Course

Acceptance

- Great Commandment, “And he said to him, “You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind. And a second is like it: You shall love your neighbor as yourself.” **Matthew 22:37, 39 ESV**
- I give you a new command: that you love ONE ANOTHER. Just as I have loved you, you also must love ONE ANOTHER. **John 13:34 ESV**
- **You cannot give what you have not received.**
 - **For you to express acceptance you must first experience acceptance.**
- **Jesus set forth who the real loving God is.**
- “Therefore accept one another, just as the Messiah also accepted you, to the glory of God.” **Romans 15:7 HCSB**
- **Because of the Gospel our lives and relationships will NEVER BE THE SAME!**
- **Acceptance** is met by receiving others willingly and unconditionally (even when their behavior has been imperfect) and loving them in spite of any differences that may exist between you.
 - The need for acceptance is met when someone likes you even though you're different from them; they don't try to change you or fix you.
 - Someone loves you even when you mess up; they give you a second chance.

- It sounds like this: “I love you just the way you are! I’m glad I’m your friend even when you mess up.”
- **Experience Jesus’ acceptance of you.**
- “Therefore accept one another, just as the Messiah also accepted you, to the glory of God.” **Romans 15:7 HCSB**
 - **God loved us when we were unlovable**
 - **God loved us when we were enemies**
 - **God proved His love by the sacrifice of His son for our sin!**
- **Luke 19:1-10**
 - **Jesus accepted Zachhaeus regardless of his past.**
 - **Jesus accepted Zachhaeus by calling him by name**
 - **Jesus received/welcomed him with open arms**
- **Jesus loved unconditionally, forgave freely, and gently restored broken people to Spiritual health.**
 - **Hebrews 13:8, Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today and forever.**
- **Express Acceptance to One Another**
- “Therefore accept one another, just as the Messiah also accepted you, to the glory of God.” **Romans 15:7 HCSB**
- **Once you have experienced acceptance from Jesus you can express acceptance to one another.**
- **How might God use you to meet the need of acceptance?**
 - Look beyond the faults. Focus instead on meeting the person’s needs.

- Quickly forgive others when they commit an offense against you.
 - Love people as God loves you...unmerited, unconditional, unlimited great commandment love.
 - Demonstrate genuine acceptance of those who are different. (Different clique at school, ethnicity, culture)
 - Be especially sensitive to others' need for acceptance when they are in a new environment (like church, school, or neighborhood)
- **Accept your spouse**
 - **“I love you just the way you are! I’m glad you’re my spouse even when you mess up.”**
- **Accept your family member**
- **Accept members of your church family**
- **Accept people outside of your church family**
- Take time to “do the book”. Work this exercise with your spouse/ children/friend...**I feel accepted when _____** (Acceptance is met by receiving others willingly and unconditionally (even when their behavior has been imperfect) and loving them in spite of any differences that may exist between you.)
- Your response may be...**I love you just the way you are! I’m glad you’re my _____ even when you mess up.**
- **As you have EXPERIENCED acceptance you can now EXPRESS acceptance.**

- **Who does Jesus want you to express more of His acceptance?**
- **Will you accept Jesus?**