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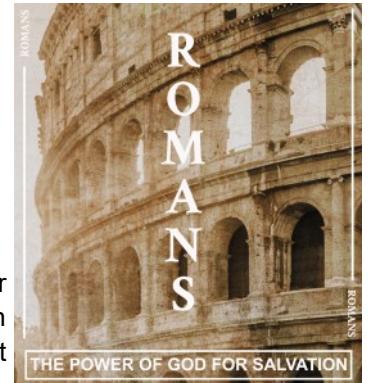
February 15, 2026

Romans 15:7-12



The Open Door

⁷ Therefore welcome one another as Christ has welcomed you, for the glory of God. ⁸ For I tell you that Christ became a servant to the circumcised to show God's truthfulness, in order to confirm the promises given to the patriarchs, ⁹ and in order that the Gentiles might glorify God for his mercy. As it is written...



1. The Problem: A Door Cracked Open

“...welcome one another...” (v.7)

2. The Pattern: A Door Held Open

“...to confirm the promises given to the patriarchs...” (v.8)

3. The Paradigm: The Door Blown Open

“...welcome...as Christ has welcomed you...” (v.7)

4. The Practice: Opening the Door

“...Therefore welcome...” (v.7)

Small Group Discussion Guide

The Open Door

Romans 15:7-12

Getting Started

Have you ever been invited somewhere, only to show up and realize the welcome wasn't real? What made it feel that way?

Digging Deeper (Read Romans 15:7–13)

1. The word “*welcome*” translated in verse 7 is *proslambanō*. It carries a rich range of meaning:

To take to oneself; To take as a companion; To take by the hand and draw near; To receive into one's home (with kindness implied); To grant access to one's heart; To take into friendship

Walk through each of these. How does each shade of meaning deepen what Paul is commanding in verse 7? How is this different from mere tolerance or surface-level politeness?

2. What makes welcoming some people costly rather than easy? If appropriate, share a personal example of a relationship where welcome required great sacrifice.
3. In verses 8–9, Paul shows that God's redemptive plan unfolded over time. Some promises were fulfilled immediately; others never were in this life. Discuss how Abraham illustrates this dynamic: Genesis 13:12–17; Genesis 15:6–7; Acts 7:2–5; Hebrews 11:8–13, 39–40. In what sense did Abraham receive the promise? In what sense did he not? How does Abraham model trusting God's larger purposes instead of grasping immediate fulfillment?

4. Throughout Scripture, God's welcome of some, often unfolds in ways that require waiting, sacrifice, or loss for others. Besides Abraham, what other biblical examples illustrate this pattern? (Think Moses, David, the prophets, exile, etc.) What does this teach us about how God accomplishes inclusion?

5. Israel was brought near and blessed because of God's covenant promises to the patriarchs (see Exodus 2:24; Deuteronomy 9:5; 2 Kings 8:19; 13:23). Why did God continue to show mercy to Israel? How was Israel called to reflect that same welcome to the nations? Did they consistently live that out?

6. This pattern reaches its culmination in Jesus. How does Christ's welcome go beyond Abraham, Moses, or David? Read verse 7 again. What stands out most to you in that sentence?

7. The Roman church was divided along ethnic and cultural lines (Romans 14–15). What specifically was happening between Jewish and Gentile believers? In what ways were they failing to reflect God's historic pattern of welcome? What is ironic about Gentile believers looking down on Jewish believers (or vice versa)? How should both groups have responded considering verses 8-12?

8. What do you think is the takeaway for our church in this moment?

Making It Real

Where in your life right now is God asking you to: Lay down a preference? Relinquish a right? Take a “rain check” on comfort? Draw someone closer instead of keeping them at arm’s length?

What would it look like this week to welcome someone “as Christ welcomed you”?

Resources:

Romans: Righteousness from Heaven | R. Kent Hughes

www.blueletterbible.org

www.biblehub.com

www.preceptaustin.org