

3-Receive One Another In Love

One of the greatest testimonies of the oneness of the Church is emphasized by the need for all believers, regardless of their diverse backgrounds and heritages, to receive or accept one another as those whom are loved by God and are therefore precious. This is both desirable and necessary for unity in Christ, both because of the fact that we are called into one, and regardless of the fact that as individuals we have differences from time to time (I Corinthians. 1:10-13; 11:18).

In Paul's epistle to the Romans, he states (from the Greek Text), "Wherefore you receive one another, even as Christ also received you, unto the glory of God" (Rom 15:7). Here the conclusion Greek conjunction "thee·o" translated "wherefore", suggests that because of some previously known statements of facts, we are to receive one another. Next we observe the compound Greek phrase "pros·lahm·vahn·ehs·theh ahl·Iee·loos", translated "receive one another", as it literally means "to take one's self", "to receive as a close associate" or "partaker", or "to have a nothing-between-relationship". Note that the reciprocal Greek pronoun "ahl·Iee·loos" means that each one is to take the initiative in receiving the other. Paul uses this same reasoning to describe how strong believers are to receive weak believers (Rom 14:2) and also how God receives or takes to Himself weak believers (Rom. 14:3). Furthermore, Paul uses this same verb in writing to Philemon, wherein he states, "If therefore you hold me as a partner, receive (pros·lah·voo) him as me (Philemon verse 17). Here Paul desires that the close fellow-partner relationship, which existed between himself and Philemon, might also exist between believing Jews and Gentiles in the body (I Corinthians 12:13).

In Romans 15:7 we note the supreme example of how God's people are to receive one another is, "even as Christ also received you". Notice that this same verb (pros·eh·lah·veh·to), in its appropriate form, is used to depict how Christ received us unto Himself, unto a nothing-between relationship. Thus if we follow the pattern of Christ, there is no room for discrimination against any believer regardless of ones characteristics, race, environment, heritage or ability (I Corinthians. 1:26-28).

Finally, this mutual receiving of one another into a close caring relationship results in the glory of God. The reason believers are to have a close reciprocal relationship with one another, is not an end in itself, but for the spiritual benefits it provides, such as the maintaining of the unity of the Spirit, which glorifies God (Ephesians. 4:3-16).

The Grace Gospel Church Ministry believes and teaches that the essence of glorifying God is to magnify His weightiness, majesty and sovereign choice of electing those who He has called into the Body of Christ. We believe that all the workings of God are flawless, including the positioning of all those whom He has placed into Sonship. Thus when we fully love and accept one another, it proves in practice the oneness that is invested in Christ (Psalms- 133:1; Ephesians 4:3, 13). Revised 10/31/03b