

REACHING OUT

A Guiding Word

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SHARE



Share about a time when you felt someone reach out to you with Jesus love? How did you respond?

What is it that drives you to reach out to other people and welcome them?

READ



Romans 15:7

Welcome one another, therefore, just as Christ has welcomed you, for the glory of God.

TALK



Romans 15 is concerned about the weak and strong. That doesn't mean people with more or less saving faith than others – God doesn't do that. It's about the dynamics of life in community.

Some Christians enjoy a glass of wine and drink responsibly. Others will not drink alcohol at all. Some love a BBQ overflowing with meat, while others only eat vegetables. Some Christians are very sensitive to particular worship styles and forms, while others weigh things differently. There are also differing views regarding what is appropriate or inappropriate in church regarding, noise, clothing, and all kinds of behaviours.

Throw it all into the mix and what do you get? A coherent whole committed to the needs of others for the sake of their spiritual growth? It's not a joke – the gospel does produce genuine renewal that surpasses the debilitating effects of self-interest. What does this mean as we welcome and integrate new Christians or generations seeking answers to their big questions into our communities?

The bible teaches that our acceptance of others is a reflection of our own

transformation. As people received into the life of God in baptism and made part of a new faith family, it glorifies God when the gospel produces a wholehearted acceptance of those who are different to us. It's an expression of our unity received by the Spirit producing a genuine warmth that receives others as God received us in Christ.

- Welcome! How does Christ welcome you? In response to Christ's welcome how do we reach out and welcome one another; at worship, work, school in our homes, in our suburbs?
- How does your congregation reach out in Christ's name or welcome visitors or new comers?
- How does your home, family or small group welcome visitors or new comers? Do you regularly offer hospitality to others?
- Talk about what you might say when reaching out in Christ's name? "But in your hearts set apart Christ as Lord. Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have. But do it with gentleness and respect." 1 Peter 3:15

PRAY



Pray for each other, your congregation and the world.

BLESS



Bless each other with these words:
(Name), child of God, may you be open to welcoming others just as Christ has welcomed you. Amen.



GUIDING PRINCIPLE

#10

Ministry practices and approaches have a strong missional focus and dimension, reaching out in Christ's name to children, young people and families in the wider community.

FAITH 5



Growministries
LCA CHILD YOUTH & FAMILY MINISTRY

