



## Romans 15:7-19

Serve San Clemente | November 9<sup>th</sup> - 15<sup>th</sup>, 2014

**Warm-up:** What are some of the top benefits of serving locally alongside others within the church family? What was the best part of Serve SC for you personally?

- Read **Romans 15:7-19** aloud. Paul writes that we are to “**accept each other**” in the same way that Christ has accepted us (**v.7**). Other translations say that we are to “receive” or “welcome” one another. Commenting on this verse, Charles Spurgeon said, “*Christ did not receive us because we were perfect, because he could see no fault in us, or because he hoped to gain somewhat at our hands. Ah, no! But, in loving condescension covering our faults, and seeking our good, he welcomed us to his heart; so, in the same way, and with the same purpose, let us receive one another.*”
  - How do Spurgeon’s comments challenge the way you think about “accepting” others?
- George shared on Sunday that our service to our city is a link between God in heaven and mankind on earth. In **Rom. 15:16**, Paul actually envisions himself as a priest at the altar, standing as representative of the people to God, and as God’s spokesperson to the people. Similarly, as we share the good news of Jesus Christ through our work in San Clemente, we are speaking for God to the people; we are calling people into relationship with our good Creator.
  - In what ways is the truth of the gospel communicated through loving acts of service?
  - Do you have an example of this, either from Serve SC or some other experience?
- In **v.15-17**, Paul deals with what *should be* the motive behind our love, sacrifice, and service: the glory of Jesus Christ. He speaks of the truth that it’s *all* about Christ and what He has done through Paul, as well as the awesome power of the Holy Spirit. It is never wrong to be sure that Christ has done great things through our lives, and to even be glad to draw attention to those things.
  - Why do you think this is the case?
  - How have you seen God honored in someone sharing from the heart about what the Lord did through his or her life?

**Wrap-up:** Pray that the Holy Spirit will use you this week in kind of dynamic encounter. It may be praying for another to be healed, or in trusting God for the miraculous. (see **v.19**)