

Tuesday

Welcomed Welcomers

Today's Scripture Romans 15:5-7

“It’s impossible for the church to be one.” A common, condemning phrase from the insiders and outsiders of religion’s mighty arm. Churches of every brand displayed on every corner, like fast food restaurants and coffee shops, certainly doesn’t help the perception of division; but when it comes to true, New Testament Christianity, the impossibility of unity is a false platform. Jesus would have never prayed for unity (John 17) if it wasn’t attainable.

To be fair, disagreement within the body of Christ is common—like the air we breathe and the water we drink. In this great chapter, Paul prays for the church in Rome to have a “spirit of unity” (verse 5) and to praise God with “one heart” (verse 6) and “one mouth” (verse 6), yet even the most passionate idealist will join hands with the most convicted realist and admit oneness of mouth and heart is rare.

But in verse 7, the apostle pulls back the curtain and provides a powerful glimpse of unity’s aura—“welcome one another as Christ has welcomed you, for the glory of God.” Paul urges us to be “welcomed welcomers.” We’re to welcome each other as Christ welcomed us. Not for our glory, but for the glory of God.

How did Christ welcome us? When Christ welcomed us through His blood in baptism, He didn’t hold the magnitude of our sin over the top of our heads. He didn’t reach back into the “slop bucket” of our past, reminding us of every mistake in our existence. Christ said, “We’re forgetting about your past so we can focus on your future.” This is the spirit in which Paul urges us to welcome our brethren, for unity’s sake and for God’s glory. Will you accept His divine challenge?

Today, I will...thank Christ for the way He welcomed me into His Kingdom. I will strive to welcome others the same—for the glory of God and for the unity of His people.