

Lesson Discovering True Acceptance

1. One of the strongest needs found in every person regardless of their circumstance is the need to be accepted -- loved for who he or she is. When a person does not receive this acceptance, what can -- and usually does -- happen to their emotions and ability to relate to others?:
2. Acceptance is communicated by more than the words we speak. What are some of the things that others do that communicate acceptance to you, personally?:
3. Does God accept people just the way they are? How do we know? Have you experienced this acceptance personally?:
4. In the following list of passages are some examples of the kinds of things that God does to provide for and demonstrate His acceptance of us in Christ. See if you can identify the thing(s) which He does to communicate his acceptance and list them at the right:
 - Colossians 1:21,22
 - II Corinthians 5:21
 - Psalm 103:10-12
 - John 14:12 • Isaiah 40:31
 - Isaiah 41:10
 - Psalm 34:7
 - John 10:29 • I Peter 2:24

5. In light of the passages that we have just read, give your opinion as to why some people do not feel accepted by God and fail to -- even dread the very thought -- of coming to God in prayer?

6. Read I Corinthians 6:9-11. What process does God use to remove any of the barriers regarding His acceptance of us or our acceptance of each other in this world?

7. If we were not feeling accepted -- loved and received for who we are -- at any time in our life, what would be a good 'first thing' for us to do? How often might we find ourselves do this kind of activity?

8. This week's focus on care and prayer...

Do you feel accepted by God? Do you feel close to Him -- as close as you have at the best moment between you in the past?

If yes? You are UNIQUE! Praise God! Spend some time thanking Him for your wonderful state!

If not (and that is most of us) take a moment and privately, or with your group, confess to Him, let Him cleanse you, and receive His forgiveness.