



## DAY ROMANS 15:7

### 1

What clique were you a part of in high school? Were you in the sports crowd? Maybe you found your identity in the band or student government. Perhaps you found belonging in the gifted program. Each one of us gravitates towards acceptance. We all find ourselves in environments where we must fight to be noticed, applauded, or included. We carry this same mentality into adulthood. But the church is not supposed to be one of those places. The church is the only place on Earth where you belong without doing something special. Here's why: Jesus accepted us based solely on His love and not on our performance. Now we do the same for each other. Welcome home.

## DAY GALATIANS 6:1-4

### 2

Have you ever carelessly ignored your car mirrors? I've had too many close calls assuming the lane next to me was clear without taking the time to examine those instruments that are meant to prevent disaster. We put mirrors in cars so that we can become aware of threats we would not usually see. Paul tells us we need to do the same with people. We must allow others into our lives so that we can see threats we would otherwise miss. As Christians, we're instructed to support, warn, encourage and, in general, help each other win at life. We all need to give support and receive it too. So, who will you invite into your life who can help you see your blind spots?

## DAY EPHESIANS 4:32

### 3

Have you ever forgotten something important like a parent's birthday or maybe your wedding anniversary? As humans, we are a broken and blundering people. We step on each other's toes. And it hurts. Of course it hurts! If we wrote everyone out of our lives who hurt us, there would be no one left. When someone wrongs us, we tend to become forgetful. We forget how much God has forgiven us. We forget that we had a debt we could not pay. We overlook that Christ died to take it away. When we disregard what God has done for us, it derails our ability to forgive like we were forgiven. But when we remember God's continual grace for all our gaffes, it makes us give each other a pass.

## DAY COLOSSIANS 3:16

4

Imagine you are driving way too fast. Would you rather be left unchecked and smash into the car in front of you, or be pulled over for speeding but avoid the crash? Personally, I would rather get pulled over than get into a wreck. The reality is that no one likes being questioned on their life decisions. We think to ourselves, "It's my life, I'll do as I please!". That's why we need others to help us put on the brakes and pull over. Even though it can be painful and at times uncomfortable, there are circumstances when the most loving thing to do is to "admonish" a friend. That means you speak the truth in love. Have you been avoiding a conversation because it could be awkward? What if your voice could help them avoid a world of pain? Maybe it is time to speak up.

## DAY JAMES 5:16

5

Have you ever been to a Masquerade Party? There is something intriguing about hiding your identity and living mysteriously...for an evening. As much fun as these parties can be, modeling your day-to-day life in this manner has dire consequences. We live in a world that wants us to fake it till we make it. We're encouraged to hide our flaws and shortcomings, only letting others see our highlight reel. Living this way will never bring fulfillment because we can't mask the insecurities that live within our hearts. James gives us some different direction. Own up to your mistakes. Share your failures with someone safe who can love you despite those actions which make you feel ashamed. When we open up to others in safe surroundings, we experience healing and fulfillment that Facebook and Instagram can't offer.

AppNotes are available on our Facebook page, Monday-Friday.

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