UNDER THE SAME ROOF · MESSAGE TAKE HOME

Acceptance: “Received”

Pastor Jon Dunwell · November 8, 2026 · Genesis 2:18; 1 Corinthians 12:18; Romans 15:7

> **BIG IDEA** We love best when we receive others the way Christ received us, before they got it all together.
>
> **IN THREE WORDS** Different. Needed. Received.

Everyone under your roof is asking the same quiet question: *“Am I welcome here as I am?”* And we really are different (at least you are!). Gender, personalities, families and communities: the thermostat war, dinner or supper, Christmas Eve or Christmas morning, Hawkeyes or Cyclones. When you’re dating, all of it is cute. A few years in, the same things drive you crazy. Marriage tends to move through three phases, Idealization, Realization and Mutualization, and three key acceptances move us from “Cute,” through “Intolerable,” to “Valued.”

1 Accept That Different Doesn’t Mean Wrong GENESIS 1:27 · PSALM 139:14 · 1 CORINTHIANS 12:18

Your differences are not a design flaw. They are the design. **Design:** “Male and female he created them,” both in God’s image, different on purpose (Genesis 1:27). **Wiring:** “I am fearfully and wonderfully made” (Psalm 139:14). The personality that frustrates you was knit together by God. **Placement:** “God has placed the parts in the body, every one of them, just as he wanted them to be” (1 Corinthians 12:18). The family you came from and the place you grew up were not accidents.

> **THIS WEEK** Turn one complaint into a compliment. Find the strength hiding in the difference that bugs you most, then tell them: “I used to think that was annoying. Now I see how it helps us.”

2 Accept Our Need for a Helpmate GENESIS 2:18

“It is not good for the man to be alone. I will make a helper suitable for him.” Six times in Genesis 1, God calls creation good. Here, before sin and before the fall, he says *not good*. The one thing missing in a perfect world is a partner. **Helper** is *ezer* (AY-zer): not an assistant or a junior partner, but strength that comes alongside someone in their need. Most often in the Old Testament, *ezer* describes God himself: “My help comes from the LORD, the Maker of heaven and earth” (Psalm 121:2). **Suitable for him** is *kenegdo* (keh-NEG-doe): “corresponding to him,” like you so you can connect, different from you so they complete you. Puzzle pieces fit because their shapes are different. (The King James “an help meet,” meaning “a suitable helper,” is where we get “helpmate.”) Being a helper isn’t a lesser role. It’s like God.

> **THIS WEEK** Ask the people under your roof, “Where do you need help this week?” Then do it, without being reminded. That’s what an ezer does.

3 Accept Our Shared Spiritual Realities ROMANS 3:23-24 · ROMANS 5:8 · COLOSSIANS 3:13

All have fallen short. “For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God” (Romans 3:23). At home we usually see our spouse’s speck before our own plank (Matthew 7:3). **All need grace, and all have received it.** The next verse says those same people “are justified freely by his grace” (Romans 3:24). “While we were still sinners, Christ died for us” (Romans 5:8). Husbands and wives are “heirs with you of the gracious gift of life” (1 Peter 3:7). You stand on the same ground before God. **Forgiveness is a needed reality.** “Forgive as the Lord forgave you” (Colossians 3:13). We’ll go deeper on November 22.

> **THIS WEEK** Give one undeserved grace. Think of the person under your roof you’re most frustrated with, and do one kind thing for them before they change anything.

“Accept one another, then, just as Christ accepted you, in order to bring praise to God.” **Romans 15:7**

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KEY VERSES

Genesis 1:27	Male and female, both in God's image. Different by design.
Psalm 139:14	Fearfully and wonderfully made. Your wiring is God's work.
1 Corinthians 12:17-18	If the whole body were an eye… God placed every part just as he wanted.
Genesis 2:18-24	Not good to be alone. A helper (ezer) suitable (kenegdo). One flesh.
Psalm 121:1-2	My help (ezer) comes from the LORD. The word for a spouse is used of God.
Ecclesiastes 4:9-12	Two are better than one. A cord of three strands is not quickly broken.
Proverbs 27:17	As iron sharpens iron. Your differences sharpen you.
Matthew 7:3	The speck and the plank. Start with your own.
Romans 3:23-24	All have sinned. All are justified freely by his grace.
Romans 5:8	While we were still sinners, Christ died for us.
Colossians 3:13	Bear with each other. Forgive as the Lord forgave you.
Romans 15:7	Accept one another, just as Christ accepted you.

REFLECT & RESPOND

1. What difference in someone under your roof have you been treating as wrong instead of just different?
2. Where are you right now: Idealization, Realization or Mutualization? What would help you move forward?
3. Is it easy or hard for you to admit you need help? Why?
4. God calls himself our ezer. How does that change the way you see being a helper?
5. Whose "speck" do you notice most, and what "plank" might you need to own first?

DAILY EXERCISES

Married? Do these together. Single or sharing a roof with family or friends? Use them with whoever is under your roof, or between you and God.

MON	**Name the Difference.** List three ways you and someone under your roof are different. Next to each, write how God might use it.
TUE	**Compliment, Don't Complain.** Take the difference that bugs you most and say out loud how it actually helps you.
WED	**Read the Blueprint.** Read Genesis 2:18-24 together. Talk about where you need each other most right now.
THU	**Be an Ezer.** Ask, "Where do you need help this week?" Then do it without being reminded.
FRI	**Plank Before Speck.** Read Matthew 7:3-5. Before you point out a fault today, name your own part first.
SAT	**Receive Them.** Read Romans 5:8 and 15:7. Do one kind thing for someone before they change anything.

NOTES

NEXT SUNDAY November 15: Communication & Conflict, "Say the True Thing / Go First." Bring someone you share a roof with.

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