



ROMANS

Being a Christian instead
of being Religious

7. Enjoying God's Acceptance

Romans 2:1-3:8

- What makes you feel accepted as a Christian?
- A difference between feeling accepted and actually being accepted
- Also a difference between being accepted and feeling accepted
- To be accepted we need to rely solely on Jesus
- To feel accepted we need to rely solely on Jesus
- Gospel is all about a righteousness/acceptance from God (3:21)

1. **Basing our Foundation on all the wrong places**

- Paul has been exposing flaws in non-Christians' foundation for righteousness
- When Christians do it, it ruins our awareness of acceptance
- 5 false foundations we sometimes look to for feeling of acceptance:
 - a) Our Life going well (or not) - 2:1-4**
 - Have you ever felt that God must be happy with you because life is ok?
 - Have you ever felt that God mustn't be happy with you because life is filled with problems?
 - Don't base your acceptance (justification) on your circumstances
 - b) Our Obedience (or lack of it) – 2:5-16**
 - When you have had a good day – do you feel more accepted?
 - When you fail do you feel less accepted?
 - Don't base your acceptance (justification) on your sanctification
 - c) Our performance of Christian duties (or lack of it) – 2:17-18**
 - Feel more accepted when we read our bibles and pray?
 - Feel more accepted because we have been serving in the church for years?
 - Feel less accepted because we've failed to read or pray?
 - These are good things but not the basis of our acceptance
 - Don't base your acceptance (justification) on your devotions or service
 - d) Our witnessing (or lack of it) – 2:19**
 - Easy to feel God's delight when you witness
 - Easy to feel a failure when you don't
 - Witnessing is an outworking of salvation not a foundation
 - Don't base your acceptance (justification) on your evangelism
 - e) Our Heritage (or lack of it) – 2:25-28**
 - Do you feel accepted because you have been coming to Lord's table for years
 - Do you feel less accepted because this is new to you?
 - The 7 minute Christian is just as accepted in God's sight as the 70 year Christian



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2. **Bad foundations cause cracks**

- When we partially rely on something as well as Jesus it causes:
 - Pride in our performance/devotion/attendance/obedience
 - Discouragement at our failure in performance/devotion/attendance/obedience
 - We miss our real sins and our growth is stunted
 - Miss out on real comfort because we look in the wrong place

3. **Christ is the only foundation**

- He is the only reason you will ever be accepted
- He is the reason you are accepted when you fail
- He is the reason you are accepted when you are unworthy
- He is always worthy and never fails
- Maybe we need to confess the things we've looked to for comfort as well as Christ
- The Lord's table is to refocus us on Christ our Righteousness

4. **A good foundation allows development - 3:1-8**

- What's the point of all these things if they don't contribute to our salvation?
- They are fruit not the root of our salvation
- It's hard to grow in a relationship if you aren't sure you're in it
- It's hard to grow in a relationship if you think you're doing well enough
- Acceptance on the basis of Jesus leaves us free to grow