

**Life Rules**  
**Part 3: "Acceptance"**  
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Sunday, July 6th, 2008

God's love is unconditional and is not based on "getting ourselves together" first. This is the kind of love we are to have for others. Acceptance is a basic human need. When someone senses our acceptance, it draws them to us, enabling us to influence them with God's love.

*"May the God who gives endurance and encouragement give you a spirit of unity among yourselves as you follow Christ Jesus, so that with one heart and mouth you may glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ. Accept one another, then, just as Christ accepted you, in order to bring praise to God."*

Romans 15:5-7

1. Your life has been shaped by doses of \_\_\_\_\_ and acceptance.
2. We are far more open to the \_\_\_\_\_ of people who accept us than people who lecture us.
3. God says we are to accept people before they are \_\_\_\_\_.
4. Jesus did not come into this world to be \_\_\_\_\_.

**Our Goal:**

To retain influence, focus on:

- Building a bridge, not making a point
- Accepting others, not convincing them
- Winning a heart, not winning an argument

Answer Key: 1. rejection 2. influence 3. acceptable 4. right