

Romans 15:7-12

It's All Part of the Plan



Vs. 6 – The goal is to bring authentic glory and praise to God - our Savior, Teacher, and Sovereign Leader

Satan says to God “*Prove it*” (Job)

We are His proof!!!! We build His reputation or we tear it down!



Vs. 7 – *How can I accept someone that I possibly don't even like - with whom I find little common ground?*

Jesus!

Do I have to be best friends with them?

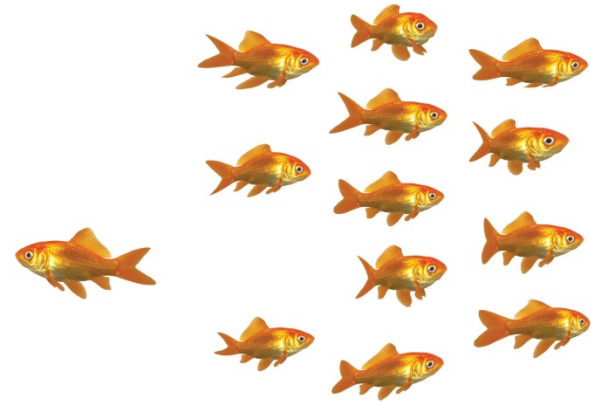
Vs. 7 cont...

It is this quality that separates Christ-followers from other human beings! No one does this,.. but us! We accept each other with all our:

idiosyncrasies –

proclivities –

disagreements –



Vs. 7 - Uncannily like a
a verse on a different
but related topic

– **Col. 3:13**



Vs. 8

- Christ – a servant of the Jews
- A covenant/promise fulfilled – confirmation that God keeps His word
- The Divine ambition accomplished



Paul's calling was to evangelize the people ***OUTSIDE*** the borders of Israel. Of course he had studied and knew the Old Testament scriptures regarding the plans and purposes of God. Those plans and purposes had ***NEVER CHANGED!*** God had called/ chosen/elected Israel to be the earthly vehicle through which He could reach out to the world!

[Ex. 19:5,6 – a kingdom of priests]

God has always used people to reach people, even in the Old Testament times.

Paul was one of only a few Jews that understood that Israel was chosen as a means to an much bigger end game than they . He was key in changing the understanding, the hearts, and the ***direction*** of the 12 original apostles! **[Acts 15:5-18]**



- God also used great miracles – **Ex.9:13-16**; Josh. 4:24; **Josh. 2:11**; Josh. 9:9,10; etc... etc...
- Prophets/preachers went to foreign lands or received foreigners – Joseph was a Pharaoh favorite in Egypt where Joseph's God garnered much respect. Jonah was sent to Nineveh, the capital, preaching repentance. Or Elijah dealt with foreigners like the Syrian commander, Naaman.
- God had always held out His hands to foreigners [**Isa. 56:3,6-8**]

For almost 1900 years before Christ, God's home base was in Israel but His target was ***ALL*** of humanity! It was just that when they were doing well spiritually (which was infrequently) Israel had such a bunker mentality that they never really got the memo. They had a persistent pattern of rejecting God's input! When they were doing poorly, spiritually (which was most of the time) they could care less!



[Matt. 21:33-43; 22:1-10]

