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# ●●● **Acceptance** ●●●

## ***How can I earn God's acceptance?***

### **Romans 3:27**

Can we boast, then, that we have done anything to be accepted by God? No, because our acquittal is not based on our good deeds. It is based on our faith.

### **Colossians 2:6**

And now, just as you accepted Christ Jesus as your Lord, you must continue to live in obedience to him.

●●● We cannot earn God's acceptance. But his acceptance is available for free to you and to everyone. All we need to do is believe that his Son, Jesus, died for our sins so that we can be free to enjoy eternal life with him. When we accept his forgiveness and ask him to be the Lord of our life, he completely accepts us into his presence.

## ***How do we learn to accept those who are different from us?***

### **Matthew 9:11-12**

"Why does your teacher eat with such scum?" they asked his disciples. . . . Jesus replied, "Healthy people don't need a doctor—sick people do."

●●● Every person is a unique creation of God, loved by God. If God loves everyone, shouldn't we?

## ***What if a person has committed a terrible sin? Should we still accept him or her?***

### **Romans 8:39**

Nothing . . . will ever be able to separate us from the love of God that is revealed in Christ Jesus our Lord.

●●● Nothing we do can separate us from God's love. In the same way, we should always love others. This does not mean that we accept their sinful actions, but we love and accept people. God created them, and that makes them special.

***Is there anything we should never accept?***

**2 Chronicles 34:4**

He saw to it that the altars for the images of Baal and their incense altars were torn down.

●●● We must not accept sin. Sin is our enemy, seeking to destroy us. If we let any sin dwell in our heart without asking for God's forgiveness, it will begin to spread like a disease, affecting all we think and do.

**❖ PROMISE FROM GOD:**

**Romans 15:7**

Accept each other just as Christ has accepted you; then God will be glorified.

**●●● Advice ●●●**

***Why do I need advice from others? I know what I'm doing.***

**Proverbs 12:15**

Fools think they need no advice, but the wise listen to others.

●●● Part of growing up means recognizing our own faults. Foolishness is thinking we can do everything ourselves, without help from others.

## ***Where do I look for good advice?***

### **Genesis 6:9**

Noah was a righteous man. . . . He consistently followed God's will and enjoyed a close relationship with him.

### **Titus 1:15**

Everything is pure to those whose hearts are pure.

●●● Seek advice from people who obey God and are honest and trustworthy. They can be counted on to give you advice that comes from God's Word.

## ***How do I know whether someone's advice is good?***

### **Matthew 7:16**

You can detect them by the way they act, just as you can identify a tree by its fruit.

### **2 John 1:9**

If you wander beyond the teaching of Christ, you will not have fellowship with God.

●●● To know whether to listen to someone's advice, check it against the truth of God's Word. If it doesn't agree with the Bible, then it is bad advice.

## ***How do I give good advice to others?***

### **Philippians 4:8**

Fix your thoughts on what is true and honorable and right. Think about things that are pure and lovely and admirable. Think about things that are excellent and worthy of praise.

●●● When giving advice to others, follow what the Bible says. Pray about what you want to say, and have the other

person's best interests in mind. Words are like medicine; they should be measured with care. An overdose may do more harm than good.

### ***What happens when I follow good advice?***

#### **Psalm 1:1**

Oh, the joys of those who do not follow the advice of the wicked, or stand around with sinners, or join in with scoffers.

●●● Following evil advice leads to sorrow and disaster and robs us of joy and satisfaction. Godly advice leads to good results, giving us more joy.

### **☼ PROMISE FROM GOD:**

#### **Psalm 32:8**

I will guide you along the best pathway for your life. I will advise you and watch over you.

## **●●● Anger ●●●**

### ***Why do we usually get angry?***

#### **Numbers 22:29**

"Because you have made me look like a fool!" Balaam shouted.

●●● We get angry when our pride is hurt.

#### **Genesis 4:4-5**

The Lord accepted Abel and his offering, but he did not accept Cain and his offering. This made Cain very angry and dejected.

●●● We get angry when someone else gets more praise or attention than we do.

**2 Chronicles 26:18-19**

“Get out of the sanctuary, for you have sinned.” Uzziah was furious and refused to set down the incense burner he was holding.

**Esther 3:2, 5**

Mordecai refused to bow down or show [Haman] respect. . . . [Haman] was filled with rage.

●●● We get angry when we don’t get our way.

**1 Samuel 18:8**

This made Saul very angry. “What’s this?” he said. “They credit David with ten thousands and me with only thousands.”

●●● We get angry when we become jealous of what others have or what they have done.

**1 Kings 22:18, 27**

“Didn’t I tell you?” the king of Israel said. . . . “He never prophesies anything but bad news for me. . . . Put this man in prison, and feed him nothing but bread and water.”

●●● We get angry when we are caught and punished for doing something wrong.

***When is it okay to be angry?*****John 2:15-16**

[Jesus] drove out the sheep and oxen, scattered the money changers’ coins . . . and . . . told them, “Get these things out of here. Don’t turn my Father’s house into a marketplace!”

**Numbers 25:11**

Phinehas . . . has turned my anger away from the Israelites by displaying passionate zeal among them on my behalf.

●●● Anger at sin is okay.

***When we are angry, what shouldn't we do?*****James 3:5**

The tongue is a small thing, but what enormous damage it can do.

●●● Be careful what you say when you are angry. You might say something you'll regret.

**1 Samuel 19:9-10**

As David played his harp for the king, Saul hurled his spear at David in an attempt to kill him.

●●● Avoid acting on impulse in the heat of anger. You are bound to do something you will regret.

***We all get angry at times, so what should we do about it?*****Ephesians 4:26-27**

Don't sin by letting anger gain control over you. Don't let the sun go down while you are still angry, for anger gives a mighty foothold to the Devil.

●●● Anger is like a wild skunk in the house. We shouldn't feed it to encourage it to stay. And we should try to get rid of it as soon as possible.

**❖❖❖ PROMISE FROM GOD:****Psalm 103:8**

The Lord is merciful and gracious; he is slow to get angry and full of unfailing love.