

# The WORD of the Day

## Welcome

*He clearly didn't fit in. His clothes were less-than clean; his hair less-than combed. His vocabulary was salty and education hadn't been one of his closer friends. Whenever he opened his mouth, it became immediately apparent that he wasn't from around here. His accent alone was enough to set him apart. But there it was: the sign said, "Everyone welcome." He probably wondered what that meant. Perhaps he pondered whether everyone meant everyone. This week: What does it mean to be welcoming when someone clearly doesn't fit in?*

Leviticus 19:33–34

- 1, It doesn't matter \_\_\_\_\_, God welcomes \_\_\_\_\_.
2. Jesus sees your \_\_\_\_\_, not just your \_\_\_\_\_.
3. God doesn't just \_\_\_\_\_ you, he has \_\_\_\_\_ you.
4. Because you have been \_\_\_\_\_, we must be \_\_\_\_\_.

### ***My Count Me In! Commitments***

- I'll be here next Sunday
- I'll invite a friend
- Surrender my past
- I want to get more involved with my faith  
Note: This will make demands of your time!
- I want to get actively involved in Hospitality

### **Additional Notes**

# Digging Deeper, Going Further

## Monday

**Read:** Leviticus 19:33–34

**Study:** *This passage falls in the middle of a lengthy list of commandments (laws).*

1. How do you think foreigners were looked upon when they moved in next door?
2. How were foreigners to be treated by the host nation?

**Reflect:** Who are the foreigners in the church today? How do you think they're treated?

## Tuesday

**Read:** Colossians 4:2–6

**Study:** *This brief passage addresses the work of reaching out to non-believers.*

1. How important is prayer in this passage? Why do you think it was emphasized?
2. What do you think it means to have a conversation with grace and "salt"?

**Reflect:** How are you making the most of your opportunities when in the presence of non-believers, visitors, and guests of the church?

## Wednesday

**Read:** Romans 15:1–7

**Study:** *This is a letter from the Apostle Paul to the church in Rome.*

1. How does Paul suggest we should treat our non-Christian neighbors?
2. What example of unity does Paul use in verses 5–6?

**Reflect:** What does it mean to you that Christ has accepted you? (v. 7)

## Thursday

**Read:** Matthew 25

**Study:** *This is a series of parables told by Jesus to those who were following him.*

1. How is the last parable different than the other two?
2. In the last parable, what kind of deeds separated the two groups?

**Reflect:** In light of these parables, how important do you think good hospitality practices are for Christians? Why do you think so?

## Friday

**Read:** Romans 7:14–25

**Study:** *This is a confession by the Apostle Paul about his propensity for failure.*

1. Why is Paul so upset by his circumstances?
2. According to verses 24–25, what was the only solution to his dilemma?

**Reflect:** How is the way Jesus has welcomed you as child of God, disciple, and friend reflected in the way you relate with others?

**Saturday:** *Who will you invite to worship with you tomorrow?*