



**Series: *Connecting
People to People***

***Sermon Title: Building Up One
Another***

***Text: Romans 15:1-7
February 20, 2011***

Our families...

- ...are terribly broken-
it's a fact! And
consequently our
churches are terribly
broken, as well.

Over the years...

- ...I have been both praised and criticized...mostly criticized, for my emphasis on marriage and family.

HOTTEST SPRING LOOKS

EBONY

Academy Awards,
Relationships,
Motherhood
and the
Insatiable
Appetite
of
Halle Berry

PERFECT
HEALTH AT
**20, 30,
40, 50**

GET STARTED
ON P.53

EXCLUSIVE
THE TWISTED,
VIOLENT WORLD OF
GANG GIRLS

**IS MARRIAGE
FOR WHITE
PEOPLE?**
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PLUS:
YOUR
MONEY
GUIDE:
GET A JOB,
GET A LOAN,
GET A BREAK
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On the cover...

- ...there is a very interesting tag line for one of the articles... Is Marriage for White People?

The article quotes...

- ...a Pew/Time Magazine Study from 2010 entitled “The Decline of Marriage and the Rise of the New Family”

Quote...

- “In 1960, 61% of Blacks and 76% of Whites were married. By 2008, the rate was 32% and 56% respectively.

Quote...

- ...Among Black women giving birth in 2008, 72% were unmarried. This compares 53% of Hispanic women and 29% of Whites.

Quote...

- ...in 2008, slightly more than half of all Black children under age 18 (52%) were living with one parent

In our text today...

- ...Paul is not talking about our traditional family...he is talking about our church family, but the principles still apply.

In chapter 14...

- ...he has talked about the need for the church to accept people no matter where they are in their spiritual walk. He picks up the same theme in chapter 15.

When...

- ...members of our church family who are *strong* willingly *assist* those who are *weak*, we are building up the family of Christ.
(Rom. 15:1)

The Rationale

- *The strong did not become strong by themselves*
- *To who much is given, much is required*
- *Spiritual growth is a process*

Assist Others

- In our own families, when we must selflessly *assist others, we are building up our family.*

When...

- ...members of our church family *selflessly accede* to the desires of others in the church family, we are building up the family of Christ. (Rom. 15:2-6)

Accede to Others

- In our own families , when we *selflessly set aside our own preferences* in order to be a blessing to someone else, we build up our family.

To accede is...

- ...the unconstrained action of an equal. It is a matter of discretion.
- *We yield after a struggle*
- *We submit without resistance*

When...

- *... members of our church family graciously accept one another, we are building up the body family of Christ. (Rom. 15:7)*

The Rationale

- We have been unconditionally accepted
- We are called upon to accept others

Accept Others

- In our own families, when we graciously *accept others in the same way that we have been accepted, we build up our family.*