

Center of the Universe

Description

Romans 15:1-7

Developmentally, we know that young children are moving from a working belief that they are the center of the universe to the realization that others exist. Some make this transition on a rather predictable timeline. However, others seem to be slow in acknowledging this shared space with others.

Paul asked the Christians in Rome to grow in maturity and live with others in mind: “We who are strong ought to bear with the failings of the weak and not to please ourselves” (v. 1). Paul didn’t give exceptions. He didn’t draw up a list of qualifications. Those who are strong in their faith are to bear with those who are not yet strong in their faith.

To this I would like to say, easier said than done. Those weaker than me can be frustrating; they can cause extra work; they can feel like a burden sometimes. How in the world would I be able to “bear with [their] failings?”

Paul also makes that clear: “May the God who gives endurance and encouragement give you the same attitude of mind toward each other that Christ Jesus had” (v. 5).

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