

Welcome Home  
Open Arms  
James 2:1-10

Moving is hard. In addition to packing your belongings and boxing up your memories, you also have to acclimate to new surroundings. A new grocery store. A new traffic pattern. Even a new local news team on TV. Everything is new and nothing is familiar. That won't last forever. What is new will eventually become familiar. Things will become comfortable as you adjust to your new normal. We all love familiarity because what is familiar is comfortable.

Welcoming others goes beyond a \_\_\_\_\_ handshake.

1. Partiality to our \_\_\_\_\_ neglects our mission
2. Partiality to those like us neglects the \_\_\_\_\_ of God
3. Partiality to those like us neglects the \_\_\_\_\_ of God

The body of believers that experiences the joy of Christ in them must be willing to live the way Jesus lived and see and relate to people not in their current circumstances but in their future potential. It is always easier to surround ourselves with people who are familiar to us, but we must remember that God loves everyone the same, so we must learn to embrace them with open arms.