

A major theme of the New Testament is sin's power to destroy the spiritual and moral health of the church as well as of the individuals who commit the sins.

Unfortunately outright sin is not the only danger to a church's spiritual health and unity. Although they are not sins per se, certain attitudes and behavior can destroy fellowship and fruitfulness in the church. They have also crippled the work, the witness and the unity of countless congregations throughout church history.

These problems are caused by differences between Christians over matters that are neither commanded nor forbidden in Scripture. They are matters of personal preference and historic tradition, which, when imposed on others, inevitably cause confusion, strife, ill will, abused consciences and disharmony.

14:1-12 **Accept with Empathy**

Stop quarreling

RESULT _____

14:13-23 **Build Up Without Offending**

Stop passing judgment & being a stumbling block

RESULT _____

15:1-6 **Please Others as Christ Did**

Be of one mind & one voice!

RESULT _____

15:7-13 **Rejoice in God's Plan of Redemption**

Accept one another

RESULT _____

This makes for a peaceful church family that pleases, glorifies and brings praise to God.

Personal Application and Interaction

1. Recall a time when a difference of opinion caused someone in attitude or words to say to you “Be reasonable, do it my way!” How did you respond?
2. Why is it hard not to demand our way when it involves something we feel very passionate about?
3. What are some of the “*disputable matters*” (14:1) in our church that can or are causing tension?
4. How and when have you been “*no longer acting in love*” (14:15b)?
5. The prohibition “*not to please ourselves*” (15:1b) is tied to having a humble “*attitude ...that Christ Jesus had so that with one mind and one voice*” God is glorified (cf. 15:5-6). Read John 17:21-23. What picture do these sections of scripture paint for you?



Unity in Our Church

Church unity comes from corporate humility.

Romans 14 & 15

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