

"Being the Body of Christ in Divisive Times"

Greg Wendschlag May 16, 2021

Romans 14

1. Unity not uniformity is the goal.

"Let us therefore make every effort to do what leads to peace and to mutual edification."
Rom. 14:19

- It is ok to disagree on things that are not biblically clear.
- Disagreement, handled in love, often enhances the desired outcome.
- Uniformity weakens a group because they only see one side of an issue.

2. How can we be unified when we don't agree?

"Therefore, let us stop passing judgment on one another. Instead, make up your mind not to put any stumbling block or obstacle in your brother's way." Rom. 14:13

- Recognize, where the Bible is silent, there is no absolute right.
- Avoid looking down upon someone or judging someone who holds a different view.
- Accept each other as brothers and sisters of our Father and Lord.
- Do not attempt to force another to behave against their conscience.
- Ultimate success is not whether something is practiced or avoided, but if we love each other.

3. Real ways to retain unity in 2021

- Whether someone feels safe or unsafe around people, has been vaccinated or has not been vaccinated, we must respect their decisions based on their clear conscience before the Lord.

"Each one should be fully convinced in his own mind." Rom. 14:5

- If someone asks you if you're comfortable not wearing a mask or reducing distancing, feel free to tell the truth without fear of being judged.

"Accept him whose faith is (different), without passing judgment on disputable matters."
Rom. 14:1

- Many potentially uncomfortable scenarios will arise between vaccinated and unvaccinated people. Make every effort to prefer one another without forcing your will upon them.

"Make up your mind not to put any stumbling block or obstacle in your brother's way."
Rom. 14:13

"So then, each of us will give an account of himself to God." Romans 14:12