

# "Being the Body of Christ in Divisive Times"

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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