

# “Change My Heart O God”

Change the way I think  
Romans 14; 1 Corinthians 1

As any believer knows, relationships with fellow believers can sometimes be strained. Paul knew that unity and harmony among believers is vital for the strength of the church and the success of its mission.

There were as many potential disagreements over small matters as there were believers in the church. These could develop into impossible divisions. In this chapter, Paul counsels the Roman believers about how to maintain harmony in their very diverse church. In the process of helping the Romans, he also helps believers today maintain unity in our churches. The issues may be different today, but the principles of God’s Word still apply.

What can a believer *do and not do* socially and personally?

Can he/she...

- drink socially?
- attend films, and if so, are any unacceptable?
- watch television, and if so, are all programs acceptable?
- gamble, and what is considered gambling?
- dance, and is there any form of dance unacceptable?
- listen to loud and suggestive music or lyrics?
- attend athletic contests on Sunday?
- wear make-up?
- wear shorts/pants...?

The result of these questions and many others cause division in the ranks for God’s church.

In 1 Corinthians 1:10-30, Paul appeals for harmony within the Christian family.

1. He deals with politics in the church. (Vs. 12-13) Is Christ divided?
2. He deals with the preacher’s job in the church. (vs. 17) Preach the gospel.
3. He deals with the people’s job in the church. (Vs. 30-31) Show Christ in our lives.