Disunity has always been a major problem with God's people. Even the Old Testament records the civil wars and family fights among the people of Israel, and almost every local church mentioned in the New Testament had divisions to contend with. The Corinthians were divided over human leaders, and some of the members were even suing each other (1 Cor. 1:10–13; 6:1–8). The Galatian saints were "biting and devouring" one another (Gal. 5:15), and the saints in Ephesus and Colossae had to be reminded of the importance of Christian unity (Eph. 4:1–3; Col. 2:1–2). In the church at Philippi, two women were at odds with each other and, as a result, were splitting the church (Phil. 4:1–3). No wonder the psalmist wrote, "Behold, how good and how pleasant it is for brethren to dwell together in unity" (Ps. 133:1).

The believers in Rome were divided over special diets and special days. Some of the members thought it was a sin to eat meat, so they ate only vegetables. Other members thought it a sin not to observe the Jewish holy days. If each Christian had kept his convictions to himself, there would have been no problem, but they began to criticize and judge one another. The one group was sure the other group was not at all spiritual. Paul's solution was three-fold:

Receive One Another   14:1-12

Four reasons why:

1. God has _____ us   14:1-3

2. God _____ his own.   14:4

3 Jesus Christ is _____   14:5-9

4. Jesus Christ is _____   14:10-12

Edify One Another   14:13-23

Ways that brethren can help brethren:

1. Christians _____ each other   14:13-15

2. Christians must have _____.   14:16-18

3. Christians must help each other _____.   14:19-21

4. Christians must not force their _____ on other.   14:22-23