

# ROMANS 36

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## STAY TOGETHER

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ONCE PEOPLE GET UPSET THEY TEND TO GO A LITTLE \_\_\_\_\_!

*Dan Kahan, a Yale law professor, recently led a study that found that our passions and biases undermine even basic reasoning. The study showed that people who are normally very adept at math are suddenly unable to solve a problem when the obvious answer conflicts with their political beliefs.*

*And its not as if the “smart” people were able to do better at solving the problems. In fact, the researchers found that the better the people were at math, the more apt they were to try to avoid the actual answer. (This applied to both liberals and conservatives by the way.) Instead of changing our beliefs to match reality, we often just rearrange reality, in our heads, to match what we want.<sup>1</sup>*

SANE, REASONING PEOPLE DO \_\_\_\_\_ THINGS.

\_\_\_\_\_ IS THE GREATEST DANGER TO THE CHURCH

*The only way the enemy can defeat the church is by tearing it apart. Stay together.*

VERSES 5 AND 6 ARE THE SUMMATION OF HIS FOCUS.

*Romans 15:5 Now may the God who gives perseverance and encouragement grant you to be of the SAME MIND with one another according to Christ Jesus,*

*Romans 15:6 so that with ONE ACCORD you may with ONE VOICE glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ.*

Same mind – Common \_\_\_\_\_

One accord – Common \_\_\_\_\_

One voice – Common \_\_\_\_\_

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<sup>1</sup> Dan M. Kahan, “Motivated Numeracy, and Enlightened Self-Government,” quoted by Brant Hansen in Unoffendable. Pp15-16.

That's unity. That's the central idea of this. Its as if he's saved the most important thing for last. Above everything else that we've talked about you guys have to STAY TOGETHER!

*And he uses these summation verses as a sort of hinge between two very powerful ideas that are essential for maintaining unity.*

## TWO ESSENTIALS FOR UNITY

YOU HAVE TO BE \_\_\_\_\_.

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### I. UNITY REQUIRES ME TO BE \_\_\_\_\_

*Romans 15:1 Now we who are strong ought to bear the weaknesses of those without strength and NOT just PLEASE ourselves.*

SETTING ASIDE YOUR PREFERENCES IS THE SIGN OF A  
\_\_\_\_\_ PERSON.

### FIRST, LIMIT YOUR \_\_\_\_\_

*1 Corinthians 8:8 We are no worse off if we do not eat, and no better off if we do.*

*1 Corinthians 8:13 (ISV) Therefore, if food causes my brother to fall, I will never eat meat again, in order to keep my brother from falling.*

*Romans 14:21 (ISV) The right thing to do is to avoid eating meat, drinking wine, or doing anything else that makes your brother stumble or become upset or weak.*

*I've never been so \_\_\_\_\_ as when I was right.*

**UNITY IN THE BODY AND THE HEALTH OF MY BROTHER IS MORE IMPORTANT THAN MY PERSONAL \_\_\_\_\_.**

*Romans 15:2 Each of us is to PLEASE his neighbor for his good, to his edification.*

*Romans 15:3 For even Christ did not PLEASE Himself;*

*Romans 15:3 but as it is written, "THE REPROACHES OF THOSE WHO REPROACHED YOU FELL ON ME."*

**SECOND, HELP THEM \_\_\_\_\_**

*If we always do everything out of fear of offense then we will forever live to the \_\_\_\_\_ common denominator.*

*Romans 15:2 "To his edification!"*

**JESUS WAS \_\_\_\_\_ WITH YOU. YOU BE PATIENT WITH THEM.**

*2 Peter 3:9 9 The Lord isn't really being slow about his promise, as some people think. No, he is being patient for your sake. He does not want anyone to be destroyed, but wants everyone to repent.*

**JESUS WAS \_\_\_\_\_ FOR YOU. YOU BE SACRIFICIAL FOR THEM.**

*Ephesians 5:1-2*

*Imitate God, therefore, in everything you do, because you are his dear children.  
2 Live a life filled with love, following the example of Christ. He loved us and offered himself as a sacrifice for us, a pleasing aroma to God.*