

Becoming Whole in Christ

*Now may the God of peace
himself sanctify you completely,
and may your whole spirit and
soul and body be kept blameless
at the coming of our Lord Jesus
Christ. 1 Thessalonians 5:23*



What was causing conflict in the Church of Rome?

There he [Paul] met a Jew named Aquila, a native of Pontus, who had recently come from Italy with his wife Priscilla, because Claudius had ordered all Jews to leave Rome. Acts 18:2

Claudius died in A.D. 54, and the decree naturally lapsed. When Nero became emperor, Jews—including Jewish Christians—began returning to Rome. That's why, when Paul writes Romans (around A.D. 57), he sends greetings to Priscilla and Aquila, who are now back in Rome (Romans 16:3).

What was causing conflict in the Church of Rome?

The one who eats everything must not treat with contempt the one who does not, and the one who does not eat everything must not judge the one who does, for God has accepted them.

Romans 14:3

Therefore let us stop passing judgment on one another. Instead, make up your mind not to put any stumbling block or obstacle in the way of a brother or sister. Romans 14:13

Rejoice with those who rejoice, weep with those who weep. Live in harmony with one another. Do not be haughty, but associate with the lowly. Never be wise in your own sight. Repay no one evil for evil, but give thought to do what is honorable in the sight of all. If possible, so far as it depends on you, live peaceably with all. Beloved, never avenge yourselves, but leave it to the wrath of God, for it is written, “Vengeance is mine, I will repay, says the Lord.” To the contrary, “if your enemy is hungry, feed him; if he is thirsty, give him something to drink; for by so doing you will heap burning coals on his head.” Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.

Romans 12:14-21

1. Be careful of judging those who are going through conflict.
2. When it comes to our shared need for a Savior's mercy and grace, I am more like the other person than unlike the other person I am in conflict with.
3. Respect those you are in conflict with as people made in the image of God. Name calling is not helpful.
4. God's Word recognizes that you can do everything possible to be at peace with someone but for a variety of reasons, the brokenness remains.
5. *Be joyful in hope, patient in affliction, faithful in prayer.*