

WHEN CHRISTIANS JUST CAN'T AGREE #1:  
"I Just Thought Christians Always Agreed!"

\* What has been happening around us and to us in 2020?

"The Alphabet for Conflict Between Christians": Kevin A. Miller, *Where do Christians not agree?*

A:	N:
B:	O:
C:	P:
D:	Q:
E:	R:
F:	S:
G:	T:
H:	U:
I:	V:
J:	W:
K:	X:
L:	Y:
M:	Z:

**I. What do we do about the fact that we Christians sometimes just *don't* or *can't* agree?**

A. It is reassuring to know that in the early church they didn't always agree:

- Acts 6:1-6
- Acts 11:1-3
- Acts 15:1,2
- Acts 15:36-40
- Romans 14:1-6
- I Corinthians 1:11,12
- I Corinthians 6:1-11
- I Corinthians 6:18-23
- Philippians 4:2,3
- III John 9,10

B. While it is true that Christians have not always agreed, there are fundamental doctrines and lifestyles upon which all Christians *must* agree:

Doctrinal foundations:

- Matthew 7:13,14

- Jude 1:3
- Acts 20:29-31
- II Timothy 4:2,3

Lifestyle mandates:

- Romans 13:12-14
- Ephesians 5:5-6
- I Corinthians 6:9-11

C. We must be careful that we do not expand the list of doctrines and moral absolutes to which all must agree:

D. Even when we affirm the *authority* of Scripture, that does not guarantee that we will agree upon every *interpretation* of it:

**II. Fundamental Biblical principles for how we live and love together in the same church when sometimes we don't agree:**

A. When working towards unity, make sure that you have truly *listened* to those who disagree with you, and that you know how/why they have reached that conclusion:

1. Proverbs 18:1,2
2. Proverbs 18:17

B. When working towards unity, understand the difference between *unity* and *uniformity*:

1. I Corinthians 1:10-13
2. John 17:7-23

C. When you are working towards unity, grapple together with Scripture as your guide, but be gracious in how you speak to one another and how you use it:

1. Acts 17:11
2. Ephesians 4:15; 25-32
3. The principle of not being *quarrelsome*: II Timothy 2:24-26
4. James 3:17,18

D. When working towards unity, when you find that you still disagree about something, commit to *living harmoniously in peace*:

1. Hebrews 12:14-15

**\* Some closing thoughts and applications:**