

# INSIGHTS ON ROMANS: THE CHRISTIAN'S CONSTITUTION

BOARS IN GOD'S VINEYARD

ROMANS 16:17–20



## The Heart of the Matter

During His earthly ministry, Jesus promised, “I will build My church; and the gates of Hades will not overpower it” (Matthew 16:18). But His statement didn't imply that our adversary wouldn't try his best to bring us down! Satan's inroads often have taken a serious toll—one that can be traced all the way back to the first century. Even though we are tempted to idealize the early church, contention and dissension were not that uncommon. In fact, down through the centuries, conflicts have continued to surface. But let's not forget that even though the church has had its share of battles, bruises, and black eyes, harmonious fellowship and fervent love have far exceeded the friction. However, no church today can completely escape dissension. Where Spirit-led vision and vitality encounter strong wills and differing opinions, the enemy of our souls goes to work. The question is will these conflicts divide and weaken the body of Christ or will they draw us together in fervent prayer and deepened commitment?



## Discovering the Way

### 1. In the Past, Dissensions Arose

From the very beginning, the church has dealt with dissension in the form of Pharisees, heretics, defectors, deceivers, and fighters.

### 2. In Rome, Trouble Was Brewing (Romans 16:17–20)

Some self-serving and deceptive people had entered the church at Rome, resulting in dissension. The church needed to watch out for the interlopers and separate themselves from the offenders.

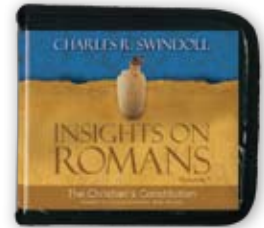


## Starting Your Journey

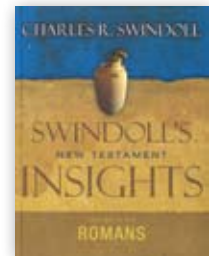
To stand strong against dissension, we need a deep commitment to Scripture, a firm determination to glorify God, and an honest appraisal of our personal walk.



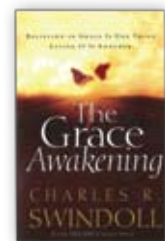
## Tools for Digging Deeper



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