

Division Among Us?

By Russ Earl

Divisions can be for the good. There are divisions in sports; guys against guys and girls against girls. Such divisions are needed and right. Unfortunately there are divisions that are not needed and those that have no place: divisions in the Lords church. In First Corinthians 1 the Bible reads,

“Now I plead with you, brethren, by the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that you all speak the same thing, and that there be no divisions among you, but that you be perfectly joined together in the same mind and in the same judgment. Now I say this, that each of you says, “I am of Paul,” or “I am of Apollos,” or “I am of Cephas,” or “I am of Christ.” Is Christ divided?...

Such should not be the case in the Lords church. Yet we hear these phrases: “Well I believe what my preacher says”, or “I am church of Christ, etc. Yet, we are warned quite clearly by the words of Paul against such things. Divisions create problems by strife, jealousies, and anger.

Outside of the church, we hear even more. The world tells us they are a “Baptist,” a “Methodist,” or “I’m Catholic.” Did He not die for all so that ALL would be together worshipping the Father in spirit and truth? By Paul saying “Speak the same thing,” he is condemning those who are in contrast to *the* word of God. We should all be of the same mind, and thus being of the same understanding, the same judgment and the same determination. We are to be “perfectly joined together” in preaching and teaching the whole counsel of God. This does not mean merely pulling out “pieces” of Christ’s teachings. It means preaching and teaching all, that when the truth is taught it can be “perfectly joined together” and not divided into man’s boxes of ideas.

In Second Corinthians verse thirteen the bible reads “And since we have the same spirit of faith...” We are to all have faith in the same thing: Christ. When we all have faith in Christ and believe the same thing, sing the same things, pray the for same things, and teach and preach the same, we all have UNITY. Which is exactly what Paul was preaching in First Corinthians chapter one. We are to have unity!

The church was NEVER meant to be divided. The titles men give their “congregations” are outrageous: The Bread of Life, The Gateway Church, The House of Prayer, etc. There is only one bread of life! There is only one gateway church! There is only one house of prayer! It is the church that Christ built! Man did not build it! Christ did! How foolish can we be to read the words “I will build my Church”(Matthew 16:18) and then have audacity to build one according to our fleshly desires, to our thinking, and to our mindsets? How obvious and how clearly does the Lord have to say things in order for us to realize what HE wants!? What will it take for us to “lay aside every weight, and the sin which so easily ensnares us, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us” (Hebrews 12:1)? When we lay aside our foolish ideas, our titles, our feelings, and do that which was laid before us, we can accomplish unity and have the ability to run the race. Only when we have unity, can we do these things. “Every kingdom divided against itself is brought to desolation, and every city or house divided against itself will not stand.”(Matthew 12:25)

In order for the church that Christ built to survive we must have unity. We must be willing to accept the right and reject the wrong. We must be united in all we do and teach. We must unite and evangelize, edify, and be benevolent in order for the church that Christ built to

survive. Let us always strive to be “perfectly joined together” as Christ intended and not divided as man desires. Let us never forget the church that Christ had in mind. The true church not the church of man, but the church that Christ built for us to be saved.