

11-6-16 Message
A HERETICAL SPIRIT THAT DIVIDES THE CHURCH
A PRELUDE TO COMMUNION SUNDAY

Scripture:

I Corinthians 11:18 For first of all, when ye come together in the church, I hear that there be divisions among you; and I partly believe it.

I Corinthians 11:19 For there must be also heresies among you, that they which are approved may be made manifest among you.

I Corinthians 11:20 When ye come together therefore into one place, this is not to eat the Lord's supper.

I Corinthians 11:21 For in eating every one taketh before other his own supper: and one is hungry, and another is drunken.

I Corinthians 11:22 What? have ye not houses to eat and to drink in? or despise ye the church of God, and shame them that have not? What shall I say to you? shall I praise you in this? I praise you not.

I Corinthians 11:23 For I have received of the Lord that which also I delivered unto you, That the Lord Jesus the same night in which he was betrayed took bread:

I Corinthians 11:24 And when he had given thanks, he brake it, and said, Take, eat: this is my body, which is broken for you: this do in remembrance of me.

I Corinthians 1:10 Now I beseech you, brethren, by the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that ye all speak the same thing, and that there be no divisions among you; but that ye be perfectly joined together in the same mind and in the same judgment.

I Corinthians 1:11 For it hath been declared unto me of you, my brethren, by them which are of the house of Chloe, that there are contentions among you.

I Corinthians 1:12 Now this I say, that every one of you saith, I am of Paul; and I of Apollos; and I of Cephas; and I of Christ.

I Corinthians 1:13 Is Christ divided? was Paul crucified for you? or were ye baptized in the name of Paul?

Today we will celebrate the Lord's table.. what is the greatest message that this ordinance should demonstrate and illustrate and teach us..

Paul gave the the teaching of the Lord's table in I Cor. 11 and his purpose for doing so was to reinforce his rebuke to the church concerning their divisive spirit.

Paul said.. the emphasis of the Lord's table is not in the eating and drinking of the elements.

I Corinthians 11:20 When ye come together therefore into one place, this is not to eat the Lord's supper.

According to Paul the great lesson of the Lord's table is that lesson of unity between us and Christ and other believers.

Much of the epistle to the Corinthians is an epistle that was written to straighten them out about their carnal errors and divisions.

Paul rebukes the Church with this statement:

I Corinthians 11:18 For first of all, when ye come together in the church, I hear that there be divisions among you; and I partly believe it.

I Corinthians 11:19 For there must be also heresies among you, that they which are approved may be made manifest among you.

Paul says when there are divisions in the church there are heresies in the church!

This morning I want to talk to you about Divisions and Heresies:

I. WHAT IS A HERETICAL SPIRIT?

II. HOW DO WE MANIFEST A HERESIES IN THE CHURCH?

III. HOW CAN A CHURCH NOT HAVE HERESIES?

IV. HOW SHOULD THE LORD'S TABLE BE A CHECK AGAINST DIVISION AND HERESIES?

V. THE LORD'S TABLE AN INVITATION FOR UNITY!

I. WHAT IS A HERETICAL SPIRIT?

What does the word heresies mean?

According to Strong's lexicon:

haireisis, hah'-ee-res-is; from 138; prop. a choice, i.e. (spec.) a party or (abstr.) disunion:-heresy which is the Gr. word itself, sect.

----- Dictionary Trace -----

haireomai, hahee-reh'-om-ahee; prob. akin to 142; to take for oneself, i.e. to prefer:-choose. Some of the forms are borrowed from a cognate hellomai, hel'-lom-ahee; which is otherwise obsolete.

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choose choosing chosen

Vines puts it this way:

The word Heresy Denotes a. a Choosing, or choice, from haircomai: to choose.. hence.. and opinion, especially a self willed opinion, which is substituted for submission to the power of truth and leads to divisions, and the formation of sects, Gal 5:20 (a fruit of the flesh...)

Galatians 5:19 Now the works of the flesh are manifest, which are these; Adultery, fornication, uncleanness, lasciviousness,

Galatians 5:20 Idolatry, witchcraft, hatred, variance, emulations, wrath, strife, seditions, heresies,

Such erroneous opinions are frequently the outcome of personal preference or the prospect of advantage, which leads to ruin according to II Peter 2:1.

II Peter 2:1 But there were false prophets also among the people, even as there shall be false teachers among you, who privily shall bring in damnable heresies, even denying the Lord that bought them, and bring upon themselves swift destruction.

Paul exposes how heresies creep into the church: in I Cor. 1:10:

I Corinthians 1:10 Now I beseech you, brethren, by the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that ye all speak the same thing, and that there be no divisions among you; but that ye be perfectly joined together in the same mind and in the same judgment.

I Corinthians 1:11 For it hath been declared unto me of you, my brethren, by them which are of the house of Chloe, that there are contentions among you.

I Corinthians 1:12 Now this I say, that every one of you saith, I am of Paul; and I of Apollos; and I of Cephas; and I of Christ.

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1. A Heretical Spirit comes as we divide over opinions differences:

Once this process starts it grows until there is no remedy.

Titus 3:9 But avoid foolish questions, and genealogies, and contentions, and strivings about the law; for they are unprofitable and vain.

Titus 3:10 A man that is an heretic after the first and second admonition reject;

Titus 3:11 Knowing that he that is such is subverted, and sinneth, being condemned of himself.

In Corinth it may have all started over choosing one leader over another.

These differences can be over all kinds of things.

Paul exposes the Corinthians petty division over following men.

There can be differences and opinions over just about anything.

We could divide over music.

We could divide over hymnals.

We could divide over building project.

We could divide over favorite preachers and leaders.

We could divide over an interpretation of prophecy.

We could divide over Bible Colleges to support.

We could divide over missions organizations that are best.

We could divide over foods.

We could divide over health products.

I Heard about a church that that had a split over a chicken leg.

Arguing over election - fellow stood up at a fellowship dinner and said, I thank God that God knew before the foundation of the world that I was going to eat this piece of chicken.

A fellow went over and grabbed the chicken out of his hand and said, God just changed His mind.

2. A Heretical Spirit Comes As We Seek To Follow Our Will And Not God's.

Romans 12:1 I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service.

Romans 12:2 And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God.

Rarely do people divide over clear Bible doctrine in a New Testament Bible Believing Church, it is usually over an opinion and differences of pinions.

3. Heresies and Divisions come as we think it is our responsibility to stand by our opinions and that we have the right to choose. After all is this not what a democracy is all about.

This is the main door opener to divisions and Heresies.

NOTE THIS VERSE:

I Corinthians 1:10 Now I beseech you, brethren, by the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that ye all speak the same thing, and that there be no divisions among you; but that ye be perfectly joined together in the same mind and in the same judgment.

How can people all speak the same thing in the church?

How can there be no divisions in the church?

How can a group of people be perfectly joined together in the same mind in the church?

How can people all have the same judgment?

There is only one way this can happen, and that is that we all submit our opinions and choices to a leader.

And who might that leader be? THAT LEADER IS JESUS CHRIST.

It is my Job as the Pastor to submit my opinions to Him.

It is your job to submit your opinions to Him.

And if we are all seeking to do this we should be perfectly joined together.

But you say, wait preacher how do we know if the church is seeking to do that? And how do you know if indeed the Lord is leading in the church?

First of all I cannot speak for you but only for myself. This is what I desire to do. Now the question is, is this what you desire to do?

You say yes but, how do I know? Wait., I just said this is what I desire to do. My question is, is this what you desire to do???

You say yea but how do I know if you really do? Well you should find another church if you don't believe me. And I will guarantee that you will never find a church where you believe any other preacher either, because you don't believe God can lead this way. THIS IS THE REAL PROBLEM: The problem that causes heresies is that every man really wants to do what is right in their own mind and be his own authority.

My question is, do you believe this the Biblical process of God leading in a Church?

YOU SEE, YOU PROBABLY BELIEVE THE CHURCH SHOULD BE A DEMOCRACY.

God does not lead through a democracy. It was the devil that got the crowd to take a vote to crucify Jesus.

- A. If God's will were to be known by democratic procedures, than Moses would have been ousted and the children of Israel would have returned back to Egypt.***
- B. Micah would have been wrong because there were 400 lying prophets that agreed with Ahab and only lone Micah that told the truth!***
- C. In John 6 Jesus would have been voted as being a false teacher.***
- D. In the end of Revelation the nations would have been right to have ousted Jesus at the end of the millennial Kingdom.***

In a democracy a person votes their opinion.

In a theocracy we all condescend to the mind of Christ.

When God's people are all following the Lord there will be a unanimous spirit, but a vote doesn't make it the will of God. Everyone submitting to the mind of the Lord makes for unity. Unity can only come as we all subjugate our will to the choice of God!

When there is a group of people that are submitted to the Lord, then God could use just about any form of government to get things done. So the Lord may get things done in the local church through congregational votes in spite of the form of government we use not because of it. It is a Baptist distinctive that we have autonomy of the church and usually with the autonomy is a policy of self governing of the church. But self government only works when individuals are being governed by the Lord Himself.

The question is are we seeking his mind and his will or our own?

Only then can we be perfectly joined together.

It is not Pastor Bissol's will or mind.
It is not Peter Accardi's will or mind.

It is not a deacons will or mind or a trustees will or mind.
It is not even the congregations will or mind.

It is our Lord's mind and will that we need.

You say, how do I know when this will happen?

Read Revelation:

Revelation 1:20 The mystery of the seven stars which thou sawest in my right hand, and the seven golden candlesticks. The seven stars are the angels of the seven churches: and the seven candlesticks which thou sawest are the seven churches.

Revelation 2:1 Unto the angel of the church of Ephesus write; These things saith he that holdeth the seven stars in his right hand, who walketh in the midst of the seven golden candlesticks;

Does Jesus have the seven Stars in his right hand or not?
Does that speak about the New Testament Church today?
Is He indeed the Lord of the churches?

II. HOW DO WE MANIFEST HERESIES IN THE CHURCH?

We manifest a Heresy when we hold an opinion so strongly that we are willing to cause a division over it.

This is nothing more than being stubborn, thick headed, and self willed.

Paul called it being carnal.

I Corinthians 3:1 And I, brethren, could not speak unto you as unto spiritual, but as unto carnal, even as unto babes in Christ.

I Corinthians 3:2 I have fed you with milk, and not with meat: for hitherto ye were not able to bear it, neither yet now are ye able.

I Corinthians 3:3 For ye are yet carnal: for whereas there is among you envying, and strife, and divisions, are ye not carnal, and walk as men?

I Corinthians 3:4 For while one saith, I am of Paul; and another, I am of Apollos; are ye not carnal?

I Corinthians 3:5 Who then is Paul, and who is Apollos, but ministers by whom ye believed, even as the Lord gave to every man?

I Corinthians 3:6 I have planted, Apollos watered; but God gave the increase.

I Corinthians 3:7 So then neither is he that planteth any thing, neither he that watereth; but God that giveth the increase.

I Corinthians 3:8 Now he that planteth and he that watereth are one: and every man shall receive his own reward according to his own labour.

I Corinthians 3:9 For we are labourers together with God: ye are God's husbandry, ye are God's building.

** We manifest Heresies when we want our way.

**We manifest Heresies when some extra biblical thing is so important to us that we will not surrender this to the Lord.

Do you know that music is a very divisive issue in the churches today, and it need not be. It is divisive because we are making too much of it. There is too much time given to music.

People have come here and do not believe a thing that we believe about music but have left here with a blessing. The reason why is because I don't make a big issue about it.

I have many a friend who goes from church to church because they are looking for this or that in the area of music.

What mention of music is there in the ministry of Jesus?

Matthew 26:27 And he took the cup, and gave thanks, and gave it to them, saying, Drink ye all of it;

Matthew 26:28 For this is my blood of the new testament, which is shed for many for the remission of sins.

Matthew 26:29 But I say unto you, I will not drink henceforth of this fruit of the vine, until that day when I drink it new with you in my Father's kingdom.

Matthew 26:30 And when they had sung an hymn, they went out into the mount of Olives.

I had to put my music on the Altar along with everything else.

In the Bible there was a controversy of eating meats offered to idols. Paul said the solution is simple. if it causes a problem don't do it. If you are the stronger brother you certainly have a greater agenda than getting a bargain on meat in the market place.

If you buy something don't ask questions. When they say it is offered to an idol don't buy it.

Romans 14:20 For meat destroy not the work of God. All things indeed are pure; but it is evil for that man who eateth with offence.

Romans 14:21 It is good neither to eat flesh, nor to drink wine, nor any thing whereby thy brother stumbleth, or is offended, or is made weak.

Romans 14:22 Hast thou faith? have it to thyself before God. Happy is he that condemneth not himself in that thing which he alloweth.

Romans 14:23 And he that doubteth is damned if he eat, because he eateth not of faith: for whatsoever is not of faith is sin.

Romans 15:1 We then that are strong ought to bear the infirmities of the weak, and not to please ourselves.

Romans 15:2 Let every one of us please his neighbour for his good to edification.

Romans 15:3 For even Christ pleased not himself; but, as it is written, The reproaches of them that reproached thee fell on me.

Romans 15:4 For whatsoever things were written aforetime were written for our learning, that we through patience and comfort of the scriptures might have hope.

Why all the opinions? Why all the heresies and divisions?

The word can also be translated "Sect.."

ACS 5:17 Then the high priest rose up, and all they that were with him, (which is the [sect of the Sadducees](#),) and were filled with

indignation,

ACS 15:5 But there rose up certain of the [sect of the Pharisees](#) which believed, saying, That it was needful to circumcise them, and to command them to keep the law of Moses.

ACS 24:5 For we have found this man a pestilent fellow, and a mover of sedition among all the Jews throughout the world, and a ringleader of the [sect of the Nazarenes](#):

ACS 26:5 Which knew me from the beginning, if they would testify, that after the most straitest [sect of our religion I lived a Pharisee](#).

ACS 28:22 But we desire to hear of thee what thou thinkest: for as concerning [this sect, we know that every where it is spoken against](#).

In the local church their ought not to be divisive sects. God ordained pastor teachers, to fight against this divisive spirit in the church.

III. HOW CAN A CHURCH NOT HAVE HERESIES?

When we are all seeking the mind of Christ (There'll be no heresies).

When we are all seeking His will and not our own (There'll be no heresies)

When we are all willing to submit to His leadership (There'll be no heresies).

When we are all praying for God to do what He said He would do in the book of Revelation, speak to the seven stars or angels of the churches (There'll be no heresies).

When we all are willing to put our opinions on the altar of God (There'll be no heresies).

When we all are willing to seek to be perfectly united together (There'll be no heresies).

When we are all willing to speak the same thing in Christ Jesus.

When we are all willing to seek to edify our brothers and sisters and not seek or own.

When we are all willing to surrender our rights for the sake of unity in the body... (There'll be no heresies).

When we are all praying for God to work through His leaders (There'll be no heresies).

When we are all seeking the mind of Christ and not our own (There'll be no heresies).

When we are all seeking to let this mind be in us which was also in Christ Jesus (There'll be no heresies).

THEN WE WILL BE PERFECTLY JOINED TOGETHER IN HEART AND MIND.

I Corinthians 1:10 Now I beseech you, brethren, by the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that ye all speak the same thing, and that there be no divisions among you; but that ye be perfectly joined together in the same mind and in the same judgment.

IV. HOW SHOULD THE LORD'S TABLE BE A CHECK AGAINST DIVISION AND HERESIES?

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I Corinthians 11:24 And when he had given thanks, he brake it, and said, Take, eat: this is my body, which is broken for you: this do in remembrance of me.

I Corinthians 11:25 After the same manner also he took the cup, when he had supped, saying, This cup is the new testament in my blood: this do ye, as oft as ye drink it, in remembrance of me.

On Loaf of Bread.

One Cup.

Many members.

We are one in Christ.

I Corinthians 11:26 For as often as ye eat this bread, and drink this cup, ye do shew the Lord's death till he come.

I Corinthians 11:27 Wherefore whosoever shall eat this bread, and drink this cup of the Lord, unworthily, shall be guilty of the body and blood of the Lord.

I Corinthians 11:28 But let a man examine himself, and so let him eat of that bread, and drink of that cup.

I Corinthians 11:29 For he that eateth and drinketh unworthily, eateth and drinketh damnation to himself, not discerning the Lord's body.

I Corinthians 11:30 For this cause many are weak and sickly among you, and many sleep.

I Corinthians 11:31 For if we would judge ourselves, we should not be judged.

I Corinthians 11:32 But when we are judged, we are chastened of the Lord, that we should not be condemned with the world.

I Corinthians 11:33 Wherefore, my brethren, when ye come together to eat, tarry one for another.

Communion is a time to examine ourselves.

Are we united in Christ?

Are we seeking His mind, His will, or are our opinions and ideas so important to us?

Can we lay these on the Altar for God?

V. THE LORD'S TABLE, AN INVITATION FOR UNITY!

Let us put away our vain ideas and divisiveness to seek to have the mind of Christ.

The Cup represents the blood of Christ and as blood unites our physical body, so too the Spirit of God unites our spiritual body.

The Bread represents Christ's body that was broken for us, as a body has many members so too the church has many members.

The church is a spiritual body, just like our physical bodies are physical. It is God who keeps our physical bodies going, and it is God who keeps our spiritual bodies going.

Let us now celebrate communion together.