

THE IMPORTANCE OF UNITY AMONGST THE BRETHREN

Scripture Reading:

Psalm 133:1 {A Song of degrees of David.} Behold, how good and how pleasant it is for brethren to dwell together in unity!

Psalm 133:2 It is like the precious ointment upon the head, that ran down upon the beard, even Aaron's beard: that went down to the skirts of his garments;

Psalm 133:3 As the dew of Hermon, and as the dew that descended upon the mountains of Zion: for there the LORD commanded the blessing, even life for evermore.

Proverbs 6:16 These six things doth the LORD hate: yea, seven are an abomination unto him:

Proverbs 6:19 A false witness that speaketh lies, and he that soweth discord among brethren.

BIBLICAL UNITY

How would we define Biblical Unity?

So important is unity to the Lord that He dedicated a whole Psalm to the subject. Psalm 133 records how beautiful unity among God's people is to Him.

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Psalm 133:3 As the dew of Hermon, and as the dew that descended upon the mountains of Zion: for there the LORD commanded the blessing, even life for evermore.

My wife and I just came back from a week of vacationing. We went to Historic Williamsburg, stopped off at Leesburg Virginia for a business trip, and then stopped off to see out daughter in the Lansdale area.

We spent a lot of time in the car on the trip and got to listen to a lot of news and talk radio. Couldn't help but notice almost everyone is decrying the lack of unity amongst the Republican party. They can't get anything done because of their dis-unity. They just can't seem to get along. As I listened to the plight and the frustration of our nation, I could not help but think again what I have said and will repeat this morning. I think the problems we face in our nation are a reflection of the problems we face in the "church". Most of the reason we do not get anything done for the Lord is because of our dis-unity!

I wonder what we could get done for the Lord if God's people were only united in their great cause. Why is it that conservative people cannot get along? Conservative politicians and conservative churches.

The Bible says,

Psalms 133:1 {A Song of degrees of David.} Behold, how good and how pleasant it is for brethren to dwell together in unity!

How would we define Unity?

Unity Involves:

1. To be in Agreement.
2. Be in Harmony.
3. Being Joined together.
4. The state of being one; oneness.
5. Concord; harmony; conjunction; agreement; uniformity; as, a unity of proofs; unity of doctrine.

WHAT DOES GOD SAY ABOUT CHRISTIAN UNITY?

The reason there is such disunity in our nation today is because there is much dis-unity in our churches, in our homes, and in our communities. Why are we surprised at what is going on in Washington, look at what is going on in your backyard.

In regards to spiritual unity amongst God's people consider the following:

I. GOD SAYS HE WANTS HIS PEOPLE TO DWELL TOGETHER IN UNITY.

1. GOD SAYS THAT IT IS GOOD AND PLEASANT FOR BRETHREN TO DWELL TOGETHER IN UNITY!

Psalms 133:1 Behold, how good and how pleasant it is for brethren to dwell together in unity!

Now when it comes to unity, I am not saying that God wants His people to unite with the world. He is talking about His own people, "BRETHREN."

II Corinthians 6:14 Be ye not unequally yoked together with unbelievers: for what fellowship hath righteousness with unrighteousness? and what communion hath light with darkness?

II Corinthians 6:15 And what concord hath Christ with Belial? or what part hath he that believeth with an infidel?

II Corinthians 6:16 And what agreement hath the temple of God with idols? for ye are the temple of the living God; as God hath said, I will dwell in them, and walk in them; and I will be their God, and they shall be my people.

II Corinthians 6:17 Wherefore come out from among them, and be ye separate, saith the Lord, and touch not the unclean thing; and I will receive you,

God does not want His people to unite with the world or be in agreement with the world.

With that said, God does want His people to be united with each other.

Maybe because we are so concerned with being separate from the world, we often separate from each other. Where do we draw the line?

Here is where we draw the line..

Let me suggest to you we have a great example for a person who was balanced in this area of what we call separation from the world.

HE WAS OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST.

He was a great example of holiness, godliness, and that one unifying factor for His disciples. They all looked to Him for unity.

He was perfectly Holy, yet He was willing to reach out to the woman at the well and other sinners who were in need of salvation. He was Holy and perfect yet patient and longsuffering with His disciples.

2. CONSIDER GOD'S TEACHING CONCERNING BEING UNITED IN HIS CHURCH. PAUL COMMANDED THE CHURCH TO MAINTAIN UNITY!

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.

Notice our Lord's teaching:

John 17:11 And now I am no more in the world, but these are in the world, and I come to thee. Holy Father, keep through thine own name those whom thou hast given me, that they may be one, as we are.

John 17:12 While I was with them in the world, I kept them in thy name: those that thou gavest me I have kept, and none of them is lost, but the son of perdition; that the scripture might be fulfilled.

John 17:13 And now come I to thee; and these things I speak in the world, that they might have my joy fulfilled in themselves.

John 17:14 I have given them thy word; and the world hath hated them, because they are not of the world, even as I am not of the world.

John 17:15 I pray not that thou shouldest take them out of the world, but that thou shouldest keep them from the evil.

John 17:16 They are not of the world, even as I am not of the world.

John 17:17 Sanctify them through thy truth: thy word is truth.

John 17:18 As thou hast sent me into the world, even so have I also sent them into the world.

John 17:19 And for their sakes I sanctify myself, that they also might be sanctified through the truth.

John 17:20 Neither pray I for these alone, but for them also which shall believe on me through their word;

John 17:21 That they all may be one; as thou, Father, art in me, and I in thee, that they also may be one in us: that the world may believe that thou hast sent me.

John 17:22 And the glory which thou gavest me I have given them; that they may be one, even as we are one:

John 17:23 I in them, and thou in me, that they may be made perfect in one; and that the world may know that thou hast sent me, and hast loved them, as thou hast loved me.

John 17:24 Father, I will that they also, whom thou hast given me, be with me where I am; that they may behold my glory, which thou hast given me: for thou lovedst me before the foundation of the world.

John 17:25 O righteous Father, the world hath not known thee: but I have known thee, and these have known that thou hast sent me.

John 17:26 And I have declared unto them thy name, and will declare it: that the love wherewith thou hast loved me may be in them, and I in them.

Jesus Prayed for His church and future disciples, that they might be unified, *THAT THEY MAY BE ONE.*

We certainly can argue from this text that our Lord wants His church unified. But not unified with the world or part of the world.

John 17:15 I pray not that thou shouldest take them out of the world, but that thou shouldest keep them from the evil.

John 17:16 They are not of the world, even as I am not of the world.

II. CONSIDER GOD GAVE SPIRITUAL LEADERS TO THE CHURCH TO HELP MAINTAIN UNITY IN THE CHURCH

Ephesians 4:3 Endeavouring to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace.

Ephesians 4:4 There is one body, and one Spirit, even as ye are called in one hope of your calling;

Ephesians 4:5 One Lord, one faith, one baptism,

Ephesians 4:6 One God and Father of all, who is above all, and through all, and in you all.

Ephesians 4:7 But unto every one of us is given grace according to the measure of the gift of Christ.

Ephesians 4:8 Wherefore he saith, When he ascended up on high, he led captivity captive, and gave gifts unto men.

Ephesians 4:9 (Now that he ascended, what is it but that he also descended first into the lower parts of the earth?)

Ephesians 4:10 He that descended is the same also that ascended up far above all heavens, that he might fill all things.)

Ephesians 4:11 And he gave some, apostles; and some, prophets; and some, evangelists; and some, pastors and teachers;

Ephesians 4:12 For the perfecting of the saints, for the work of the ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ:

Ephesians 4:13 Till we all come in the unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God, unto a perfect man, unto the measure of the stature of the fulness of Christ:

Ephesians 4:14 That we henceforth be no more children, tossed to and fro, and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the sleight of men, and cunning craftiness, whereby they lie in wait to deceive;

Ephesians 4:15 But speaking the truth in love, may grow up into him in all things, which is the head, even Christ:

Ephesians 4:16 From whom the whole body fitly joined together and compacted by that which every joint supplieth, according to the effectual working in the measure of every part, maketh increase of the body unto the edifying of itself in love.

The Church is likened to a body, and a healthy body works together.
Nourishes itself and edifies itself!

God gives leadership to his church to keep the church unified.

The Pastor is like the conductor of the congregation:

The reason there is a conductor is to help keep everyone together in the orchestra or choir.
The Pastor is the conductor and the Bible is our score.

III. CONSIDER GOD LIKENS THE EXAMPLE OF WHAT MAKES A HEALTHY BODY TO THAT WHICH MAKES A HEALTHY CHURCH.

NOTE THE ANALOGY OF WHAT MAKES FOR A HEALTHY BODY!

I Corinthians 12:12 For as the body is one, and hath many members, and all the members of that one body, being many, are one body: so also is Christ.

I Corinthians 12:13 For by one Spirit are we all baptized into one body, whether we be Jews or Gentiles, whether we be bond or free; and have been all made to drink into one Spirit.

I Corinthians 12:14 For the body is not one member, but many.

I Corinthians 12:15 If the foot shall say, Because I am not the hand, I am not of the body; is it therefore not of the body?

I Corinthians 12:16 And if the ear shall say, Because I am not the eye, I am not of the body; is it therefore not of the body?

I Corinthians 12:17 If the whole body were an eye, where were the hearing? If the whole were hearing, where were the smelling?

I Corinthians 12:18 But now hath God set the members every one of them in the body, as it hath pleased him.

I Corinthians 12:19 And if they were all one member, where were the body?

I Corinthians 12:20 But now are they many members, yet but one body.

I Corinthians 12:21 And the eye cannot say unto the hand, I have no need of thee: nor again the head to the feet, I have no need of you.

I Corinthians 12:22 Nay, much more those members of the body, which seem to be more feeble, are necessary:

I Corinthians 12:23 And those members of the body, which we think to be less honourable, upon these we bestow more abundant honour; and our uncomely parts have more abundant comeliness.

I Corinthians 12:24 For our comely parts have no need: but God hath tempered the body together, having given more abundant honour to that part which lacked:

I Corinthians 12:25 That there should be no schism in the body; but that the members should have the same care one for another.

I Corinthians 12:26 And whether one member suffer, all the members suffer with it; or one member be honoured, all the members rejoice with it.

I Corinthians 12:27 Now ye are the body of Christ, and members in particular.

I Corinthians 12:28 And God hath set some in the church, first apostles, secondarily prophets, thirdly teachers, after that miracles, then gifts of healings, helps, governments, diversities of tongues.

I Corinthians 12:29 Are all apostles? are all prophets? are all teachers? are all workers of miracles?

I Corinthians 12:30 Have all the gifts of healing? do all speak with tongues? do all interpret?

I Corinthians 12:31 But covet earnestly the best gifts: and yet shew I unto you a more excellent way.

I Corinthians 13:1 Though I speak with the tongues of men and of angels, and have not charity, I am become as sounding brass, or a tinkling cymbal.

Paul gives the illustration of the human body as an example of unity.

We really have a physical problem if we need our legs to move and they rebel and refuse to move.

What if we needed to pick something up and our arm refused to work. It would be a nightmare beyond belief.

In fact, when I was younger I would have a recurring nightmare where this exact thing happened. Imagine if you were running and your feet refused to run, as if the brakes were on, or imagine you wanted to stop and instead you went forward.

I actually had this happen one time when I was plowing. I hit the brake and instead rushed forward. What happened was my boot was so big as I pressed on the brake the further down I went I engaged the gas at the same time I was pressing on the brake. So the harder I hit the brake the more the engine accelerated! This was a live nightmare!

Some people think it is their duty to be the monkey wrench in the gears. A kind of auditor in every church business meeting. They think this is their ministry in life? When I found out those over sized boots nearly got me killed, I realized they were not a help when I plowed snow, instead they were what the Bible calls a stumbling block! These people think they are gifts to the church. NO, they are only stumbling blocks and sometimes even dangerous! How beautiful it is when everyone works together.

I remember one year when our township had a bicentennial celebration at the fairgrounds. They asked the churches to participate in providing food and manning the concession stands. I went to the meeting at the township building and at the meeting they said the busiest stand was the hamburger stand. When they looked around to give this assignment out, they looked at me and said.. "I think your church should do it.. you probably could drum up more volunteers..."

We had a few workers meetings and it was a busy stand. We sold hamburgers for \$2.00 each. And we were busy. I remember a local merchant who I know did not like me very much just stood along our concession stand and stared at us working for the longest time. I looked over to him and greeted him. He said to me "It's beautiful to see people working together..." he almost quoted Psalm 133.

Psalms 133:1 Behold, how good and how pleasant it is for brethren to dwell together in unity!

It's a beautiful thing when we have tent meeting week and everybody is working together.
It is a beautiful thing when we have children programs and everyone is working together.
It is a beautiful thing when we have missions month and everyone gets behind our missions program.

It's a beautiful thing when we have lots of people show up for a workday, etc. etc. etc..

When the spiritual arms are working, the legs are running, the eyes are seeing, and the ears are hearing, together.

**IV. GOD HATES IT WHEN THERE IS DIVISION AND STRIFE
AMONGST THE BRETHREN, HE GIVES US UNIFYING TOOLS.**

Psalms 133:1 {A Song of degrees of David.} Behold, how good and how pleasant it is for brethren to dwell together in unity!

Proverbs 6:16 These six things doth the LORD hate: yea, seven are an abomination unto him:

Proverbs 6:19 A false witness that speaketh lies, and he that soweth discord among brethren.

WHAT DOES HE DO TO HELP UNIFY US IN HIS CHURCH? NOTE WHAT HE GIVES US:

1. HE GIVES HIS HOLY SPIRIT.

I Corinthians 12:12 For as the body is one, and hath many members, and all the members of that one body, being many, are one body: so also is Christ.

I Corinthians 12:13 For by one Spirit are we all baptized into one body, whether we be Jews or Gentiles, whether we be bond or free; and have been all made to drink into one Spirit.

What blood is to your physical body, the Holy Spirit is to your spiritual body.

A. HIS SPIRIT GIVES US ONE MIND.

I Corinthians 2:14 But the natural man receiveth not the things of the Spirit of God: for they are foolishness unto him: neither can he know them, because they are spiritually discerned.

I Corinthians 2:15 But he that is spiritual judgeth all things, yet he himself is judged of no man.

I Corinthians 2:16 For who hath known the mind of the Lord, that he may instruct him? But we have the mind of Christ.

**B. HIS SPIRIT GIVES US A SUPERNATURAL LOVE FOR EACH OTHER
AND VIRTUES THAT ALLOW FOR UNITY.**

Galatians 5:22 But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith,

Galatians 5:23 Meekness, temperance: against such there is no law.

**2. ANOTHER THING THAT CHRIST HAS GIVEN TO HIS CHURCH THAT CAN UNITE US
IS A COMMON MISSION OR WORK, AND LEADERSHIP TO HELP US DO THAT
WORK.**

I Corinthians 3:9 For we are labourers together with God:

A common mission.

A common goal.

A common work.

Can unite people.

Ephesians 4:11 And he gave some, apostles; and some, prophets; and some, evangelists; and some, pastors and teachers;

Ephesians 4:12 For the perfecting of the saints, **for the work of the ministry**, for the edifying of the body of Christ:

Part of the unifying factor of the church is that He gave us a commission to do the work of the ministry.

What is the work of the ministry that we all should unite around?

The word “Ministry” means to be a servant.

diakonia, dee-ak-on-ee'-ah; from 1249; attendance (as a servant, etc.); fig. (eleemosynary) aid, (official) service (espec. of the Chr. teacher, or techn. of the diaconate):-**(ad-) minister (-ing, -tration, -try), office, relief, service (-ing).**

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

diakonos, dee-ak'-on-os; prob. from an obs. diako (to run on errands; comp. 1377); an attendant, i.e. (gen.) a waiter (at table or in other menial duties); spec. a Chr. teacher and pastor (techn. a deacon or deaconess):-**deacon, minister, servant.**

The ministry is to place ourselves as servants of Jesus Christ.
To serve Him.
To do his service on earth.

What does the Lord want us to be doing?

The great commission wraps it all up.

Matthew 28:19 Go ye therefore, and **teach** all nations, **baptizing** them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost:

Matthew 28:20 **Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded** you: and, lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world. Amen.

Witness.

See people baptized.

Teach them to obey everything Christ commanded them to do.

Ephesians gives some of the all things He commanded us:

The rest of this passage tells us what the work of the ministry involves.

Ephesians 4:13 Till we all come in the unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God, unto a perfect man, unto the measure of the stature of the fulness of Christ:

Ephesians 4:14 That we henceforth be no more children, tossed to and fro, and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the sleight of men, and cunning craftiness, whereby they lie in wait to deceive;

Ephesians 4:15 But speaking the truth in love, may grow up into him in all things, which is the head, even Christ:

Ephesians 4:16 From whom the whole body fitly joined together and compacted by that which every joint supplieth, according to the effectual working in the measure of every part, maketh increase of the body unto the edifying of itself in love.

1. EDIFICATION OF THE CHURCH. SAINTS. Building them up.
2. PREACHING THE FAITH = Unity of the faith.
3. PROMOTING SOUND DOCTRINE.
4. PROMOTING SPIRITUAL GROWTH. Grow up into Him in all things.
5. BRINGING INCREASE TO THE BODY IN LOVE.
Spiritual growth.
Numerical growth.

Do we not have a great cause to unite around?
Do we not have a great commission we need to be about?
Is not our Lord the King of Kings and Lord of Lords?

Is He not going to return to this planet and rule and reign?

CONCLUDING THOUGHTS:

During World War II, Russia and the United States were on the opposite polls in regards to their political ideologies but they put aside their differences in order to thwart off a more dangerous foe, Nazi Germany! Two countries who would have never united put aside vast differences to win a war!

How sad it is that in the church of Jesus Christ we are so busy fighting each other we ignore the greater threat that is devouring the souls of men. We have a war to fight and win, let's get to the chase.

IS THERE NOT A CAUSE TO UNITE AROUND?

We shake our heads as we see the petty bickering going on in our political arena while our nation is being destroyed. Why are we not more appalled when we see petty bickering amongst God's people? This ought to never be.

There are many people upset at the bickering going on amongst politicians.
While healthcare is a mess they bicker over this and that.
While Korea is developing nuclear weapons, they are fighting.
While our nation is going bankrupt, they are upset about tweeting.

People are saying, is there not a greater cause? Get to work.

But I say to you,
The Church has a greater commission.

People are going to hell.
Eternal matters are being neglected.
Peoples spiritual wellbeing is at stake.

While we can't focus on the commission Christ has given to us.
While we can't get along.
While we are choking on gnats and swallowing camels.

IS THERE NOT A GREATER CAUSE?

On my vacation all I heard on the news is how paralyzed our nation is politically.
I can't help but think how sad it is when the church is paralyzed spiritually.

Isaac Watts said it right when he wrote.

Are there no foes for me to face?
Must I not stem the flood?
Is this vile world a friend to grace,
to help me on to God?

Let's put aside petty differences, to fight the greater cause together..
Let's all do the work of the ministry!

**QUESTION? WHY ARE THERE SO MANY DIVISIONS IN THE CHURCH
WHY ARE THE BRETHREN DIVIDED?
Why Do Conservatives Have More Divisions Than Liberals?**

PART II MESSAGE

THE CAUSES OF DIVISION AMONGST THE BRETHREN.

We have shared this morning how that God is not the author of division, strife. Division amongst the brethren and how God wants His people unified and not divided. As my wife and I were driving for over 20 hours stuck in traffic, I got a lot of news in, and talk radio. Everyone seemed to be in agreement. All the conservative talk show hosts were upset that the Republicans can't seem to get along. The cry was, why is it that the liberals seem more united when they get in power than the conservatives?

At the end of this Bible study I am going to answer this question that seemed to baffle the conservative news media to no end. However before I answer this questions we are going to look at why it is God's church at times seems so divided, when it should not be!

Unity is a gift of God.

Unity is what God wants for His church. NOTE:

James 1:16 Do not err, my beloved brethren.

James 1:17 Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, and cometh down from the Father of lights, with whom is no variableness, neither shadow of turning.

In fact, God says he hates division. Discord!!!!

Proverbs 6:16 These six things doth the LORD hate: yea, seven are an abomination unto him:

Proverbs 6:19 A false witness that speaketh lies, and he that soweth discord among brethren.

I Corinthians 14:33 For God is not the author of confusion, **but of peace**, as in all churches of the saints.

WHY THEN IS THERE SO MUCH DIVISION IN THE CHURCH?

WHY THEN IS THERE SO MUCH UNREST?

WHY IS IT THAT THE BRETHREN ARE NOT UNITED?

OFTEN WE SEE DIVISION ABOUNDS.

Tonight we will celebrate communion.

Paul, when teaching about the Lord's supper said:

1CO 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.

1CO 11:19 For there must be also heresies among you, that they which are approved may be made manifest among you.

Shortly after writing this Paul goes into the teaching concerning the Lord's table.

Divisions violate the picture of the Lord's supper.

A heresy is an opinion that divides people. Any of our opinions contrary to the word of God will divide us. This message is going to be an introduction to the Lord's table tonight. We will conclude the message with the invitation which will be the Lord's supper.

What does the word Heresy mean?

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.

WHY ARE THERE DIVISIONS AMONGST GOD'S CHURCH WHEN GOD SAYS HE HATES IT AND HE DOESN'T WANT IT?

I. Heresies or division come when people think they need to take sides.

1CO 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.

1CO 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.

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

Our political system was designed to allow for divisions. Our forefathers of our nation expected strife and contention in the political arena. They just didn't expect them to be non Christians and as ruthless as they have become.

However, Christ does not intend there to be factions and party bickering in the church. This is not the place for such activities.

Paul even said, those who said they are of Christ were wrong. Why? This was creating a faction or party. Meaning others who were of Paul were not in the same church or group,

II. DIVISION MAY ALSO COME BECAUSE SOME PEOPLE REFUSE TO RECEIVE AND BELIEVE THE TRUTH OF GOD'S WORD

UNITY CANNOT HAPPEN SOMETIMES BECAUSE OF DISAGREEMENT ABOUT THE TRUTH.

Amos 3:3 Can two walk together, except they be agreed?

The basis of unity in the church must be the truth.

When people refuse to receive and believe the truth it causes division..

All the problems in the church are in essence doctrinal problems.

JESUS SPOKE THE TRUTH IN A WORLD GIVEN TO LIES.
OFTEN THIS TRUTH CAUSES A DIVISION. If we all believe the same thing we will be united.
THIS IS WHY WE SPEND SO MUCH TIME TEACHING AND PREACHING!

The truth will divide, and the truth will unite. This is why you hear some people teach that doctrine divides. It only divides those who will not receive sound doctrine. The truth divides those who do not believe the same truth. It unites those who do believe!

Jesus predicted this:

Luke 12:51 Suppose ye that I am come to give peace on earth? I tell you, Nay; but rather division:

Luke 12:52 For from henceforth there shall be five in one house divided, three against two, and two against three.

Luke 12:53 The father shall be divided against the son, and the son against the father; the mother against the daughter, and the daughter against the mother; the mother in law against her daughter in law, and the daughter in law against her mother in law.

This is why the Lord gave a church. A church should be a place where the Word of God is preached and we unite around the truth. The unifying factor of the church should be the truth! This in of itself limits those who will want to be part of this body.

When the Bible is preached and people do not want to hear the truth often they divide and leave. Now some churches are seeking unity based on other things rather than the Word of God and the truth.

- A. ECUMENICAL CHURCHES SEEK UNITY FOR UNITY SAKE.**
- B. MODERN EVANGELICAL CHURCHES
SEEK UNITY BY PROMOTING CELL GROUPS THAT HAVE MUTUAL INTEREST
SENIORS, YOUNG COUPLES, SINGLES, TEENS, Unity is based on other things
than the truth.**
- C. SOME SEEK UNITY BASED ON OTHER THINGS, LIKE A COMMON ENEMY.
Russian and the USA united to beat Nazi Germany not because they both believed in
A Capitalistic society!**
- D. THE BIBLE SAYS THAT WE ARE UNITED ONLY IN CHRIST.
THROUGH HIS WORD AND SPIRIT.**

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

I Corinthians 12:4 Now there are diversities of gifts, but the same Spirit.

We will be divided, and rightly so if we have:

- a. A Different Spirit.
- b. We Differ about the word of God.

- c. We Have a different Saviour or understanding of God.
- d. We have a strongly different stand doctrinally.

Even Paul and Barnabas divided because they could not agree on a biblical principle.

Did John Mark disqualify himself as a worker who could go on this work for the Lord?

Paul said he did.

Barnabas said he didn't. This caused a division and they could not work together because of it.

NOTE THE CHURCH SIDED WITH PAUL!

Acts 15:36 And some days after Paul said unto Barnabas, Let us go again and visit our brethren in every city where we have preached the word of the Lord, and see how they do.

Acts 15:37 And Barnabas determined to take with them John, whose surname was Mark.

Acts 15:38 But Paul thought not good to take him with them, who departed from them from Pamphylia, and went not with them to the work.

Acts 15:39 And **the contention was so sharp between them, that they departed asunder one from the other:** and so Barnabas took Mark, and sailed unto Cyprus;

Acts 15:40 And Paul chose Silas, and departed, being recommended by the brethren unto the grace of God.

Acts 15:41 And he went through Syria and Cilicia, confirming the churches.

Sad how good people divide over silly things and sometimes not so silly things.

But there always is a right. There will be times when good men disagree so much they can no longer work together. To be united we need to agree. Paul and Barnabas were not enemies. They just decided they could not agree on this issue of John Mark. Later they came to an agreement and John Mark was again able to work with Paul.

2TI 4:11 Only Luke is with me. Take Mark, and bring him with thee: for he is profitable to me for the ministry.

WHAT ALSO CAUSES DIVISION.

III. CARNAL PEOPLE CAUSE DIVISION: PEOPLE WHO WALK IN THE FLESH AND NOT THE SPIRIT.

1. THOSE WHO WALK IN THE FLESH WILL BE GIVEN TO DIVISION.

Galatians 5:15 But if ye bite and devour one another, take heed that ye be not consumed one of another.

Galatians 5:16 This I say then, Walk in the Spirit, and ye shall not fulfil the lust of the flesh.

Galatians 5:17 For the flesh lusteth against the Spirit, and the Spirit against the flesh: and these are contrary the one to the other: so that ye cannot do the things that ye would.

Galatians 5:18 But if ye be led of the Spirit, ye are not under the law.

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,

Galatians 5:21 Envyings, murders, drunkenness, revellings, and such like: of the which I tell you before, as I have also told you in time past, that they which do such things shall not inherit the kingdom of God.

Galatians 5:22 But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith,

Galatians 5:23 Meekness, temperance: against such there is no law.

Galatians 5:24 And they that are Christ's have crucified the flesh with the affections and lusts.

Galatians 5:25 If we live in the Spirit, let us also walk in the Spirit.

2. THOSE WHO WALK IN THE FLESH WILL FOLLOW MEN AND NOT CHRIST!

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.

3. THOSE WHO LEAD IN THE FLESH WILL PROMOTE DIVISION

II John 1:9 I wrote unto the church: but Diotrephes, who loveth to have the preeminence among them, receiveth us not.

II John 1:10 Wherefore, if I come, I will remember his deeds which he doeth, prating against us with malicious words: and not content therewith, neither doth he himself receive the brethren, and forbiddeth them that would, and casteth them out of the church.

II John 1:11 Beloved, follow not that which is evil, but that which is good. He that doeth good is of God: but he that doeth evil hath not seen God.

Sometimes malicious carnal leaders actually promote division amongst the brethren.

Maligning God's servants, seeking their own preeminence and welfare.

Jeroboam actually promoted division between Judah and Israel because he wanted to protect his interests and power.

So it is in the church today. We often have Pastors that malign other churches seeking their own welfare and interests encouraging people to leave one church and come to theirs, not encouraging reconciliation.

IV. SOMETIMES THE DEVIL WILL CAUSE DIVISION.

One of Satan's devices is to introduce a spirit of division amongst God's people.

He may introduce a bad spirit.

He may cause mis-understandings and offenses.

He may be used as a judgment against people who are out of the will of God.

Judges 9:22 When Abimelech had reigned three years over Israel,

Judges 9:23 Then **God sent an evil spirit** between Abimelech and the men of Shechem; and the men of Shechem dealt treacherously with Abimelech:

Judges 9:24 That the cruelty done to the threescore and ten sons of Jerubbaal might come, and their blood be laid upon Abimelech their brother, which slew them; and upon the men of Shechem, which aided him in the killing of his brethren.

When we reject God and His word, often as a judgment God allows the devil to afflict us. We are given over to Satan.

NOTE: When there is division, one way or the other, the devil is usually involved.

IF WE REJECT THE TRUTH IT IS BECAUSE OUR MINDS HAVE BEEN BLINDED.

IF WE DIVIDE OVER LEADERSHIP IT IS BECAUSE WE ARE CARNAL.

IF WE WALK IN THE FLESH, THE DEVIL REJOICES.

God is the Author of peace and unity.

Satan is the author of confusion, death, and division.

V. EXAMPLES IN THE BIBLE OF DIVISION.

1. The first division came in the garden of Eden when men Sinned against God. (Adam was Separated From God.)

Men ran from God. A division occurred.

Genesis 3:8 And they heard the voice of the LORD God walking in the garden in the cool of the day: and Adam and his wife hid themselves from the presence of the LORD God amongst the trees of the garden.

Genesis 3:9 And the LORD God called unto Adam, and said unto him, Where art thou?

Genesis 3:23 Therefore the LORD God sent him forth from the garden of Eden, to till the ground from whence he was taken.

Genesis 3:24 So he drove out the man; and he placed at the east of the garden of Eden Cherubims, and a flaming sword which turned every way, to keep the way of the tree of life.

Sin caused a division between God and Man.

2. THE SECOND DIVISION OCCURRED BECAUSE OF CARNALITY (Cain Of The Flesh)

HERE WE SEE THE FIRST FAMILY DIVISION.

Cain was of the flesh.

Abel was of the Spirit .

Envy strife produces hatred division and murder. Cain hated Abel. As far as we know there was no animosity in Abel's heart towards Cain.

Genesis 4:6 And the LORD said unto Cain, Why art thou wroth? and why is thy countenance fallen?

Genesis 4:7 If thou doest well, shalt thou not be accepted? and if thou doest not well, sin lieth at the door. And unto thee shall be his desire, and thou shalt rule over him.

Genesis 4:8 And Cain talked with Abel his brother: and it came to pass, when they were in the field, that Cain rose up against Abel his brother, and slew him.

3. THE THIRD DIVISION CAME BECAUSE MEN WANTED TO DO SOMETHING THAT WAS AGAINST GOD'S WILL (Tower of Babel)

Genesis 11:6 And the LORD said, Behold, the people is one, and they have all one language; and this they begin to do: and now nothing will be restrained from them, which they have imagined to do.

Genesis 11:7 Go to, let us go down, and there confound their language, that they may not understand one another's speech.

Genesis 11:8 So the LORD scattered them abroad from thence upon the face of all the earth: and they left off to build the city.

Genesis 11:9 Therefore is the name of it called Babel; because the LORD did there confound the language of all the earth: and from thence did the LORD scatter them abroad upon the face of all the earth.

Note: All God had to do was confuse the Languages of the people of the world and that produced division.

All the devil has to do to promote division in the church is get people not talking to each other.

I have yet to see any two people who cannot get together and reconcile as long as they will talk.

THERE IS HOPE AS LONG AS THEY WILL TALK!!!

COMMUNICATION:

A. DIVISION COMES AS WE THINK SOMEONE HAS SAID THIS AGAINST US. AND INSTEAD OF GOING TO THEM. WE HOLD IT IN.

B. DIVISION COMES AS WE STOP TALKING AND START SURMISING.

C. DIVISION COMES AS WE UNITE AROUND A CAUSE OTHER THAN THE ONE THAT THE LORD HAS FOR US.

THIS THEY BEGAN TO DO WAS CONTRARY TO THE WILL OF GOD!

4. Another example of Division was when Israel divided. THE NORTHERN KINGDOM AND SOUTHERN.

Note: The division came as a judgment on Solomons sin!

I have seen God judge people for sin.

Sometimes with division in their Families.

Sometimes with division in the marriage.

Sometimes with division in a nation.

Sometimes with division in a church.

Conclusion:

TWO THINGS WE NEED TODAY:
UNITY IN THE CHURCH.
UNITY IN OUR HOMES.

Today we have splintered homes.
Today we have splinters.. churches.
Today we have a splintered nation.

Having a right relationship with Christ is the key.

Can we see how it is that God says how beautiful it is when brethren dwell together in unity.
Psalm 133:1

Now to answer our original question that I said I would answer:

Why is it that the left and liberals seem more united in their cause than conservative people?
The reason is simple. Error can tolerated, great variances in error. How much poison do you need in the pot to wreck the pot?

The reason conservative people cannot unite is because they are not conservative enough.
What people cannot understand is why so many people voted for Donald Trump. They did so because they are sick and tired of compromising politicians and they are hoping an outsider who just speaks his mind will get something done. Their crying out for consistency!

The reason that conservatives are so divided is not because they are conservatives it is because they are not conservative enough. Jesus put it this way.

REV 3:14 And unto the angel of the church of the Laodiceans write; These things saith the Amen, the faithful and true witness, the beginning of the creation of God;
REV 3:15 I know thy works, that thou art neither cold nor hot: I would thou wert cold or hot.
REV 3:16 So then because thou art lukewarm, and neither cold nor hot, I will spue thee out of my mouth.

Satan does not care if you agree with him. All he cares about is that you are in rebellion against God with him.

MAT 12:30 He that is not with me is against me; and he that gathereth not with me scattereth abroad.

God's people can only be united based on the truth and serving the Lord Jesus Christ.

Satan's people are united not on the basis of the truth but united in one thing alone. Rebellion against the truth and God. And that is broad and may vary in many respects. The diversity of that crown is great. It can include any number of variances.

Problem is the truth is the truth and does not vary, it is very narrow and limited and all roads based on the truth lead to the author of truth.

Jesus said, "I AM THE WAY AND THE TRUTH" John 14:6 that is why conservatives are not united. They are not conservative enough, or they are in some form of error when it comes to

the truth. Many conservatives don't go far enough and fail to acknowledge the author of truth, JESUS CHRIST.

So through the study of God's word you have learned why our conservative Republican party is so divided. They are divided because most of them are wishy washy conservatives. They are good for nothing. This is why they could not win the white house. This is why in spite of all his faults Trump rallied up more votes. Many people were tired of conservative politicians who were letting themselves be pushed around by the liberal media. In my mind Donald Trump is not conservative enough. Yet to the world he was a breath of fresh air because they were looking for someone to stand up against the liberal left.

However, we have a greater cause to stand up for. My hope is not in politicians, or government, or our president. My hope is in Jesus Christ. We have a greater cause to be united for. How sad it is that we do not unit around this cause. People think that people will be repelled by standing for the truth. No it is just the opposite. Some will be repelled, but what we want in the church is a group of people who will rally around the truth. Let us not be luke warm in this endeavor.

In conclusion, let us read Paul's warning about division in the church.

1CO 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.

1CO 11:19 For there must be also heresies among you, that they which are approved may be made manifest among you.

Paul said, repent of these heresies. The church is not to be divided. Then after that warning he goes into the teaching concerning the Lord's table. The Lord's table illustrates how Christ wanted his church united. It illustrated the importance of unity.

Now let us partake of the Lord's supper as an invitation to this message of unity in the church.