

Biblical Unity

Undermining Biblical Unity | Part 3



It is sinful to stir up trouble that will lead to division in the church. God says that He hates those who sow discord among the brethren (**Proverbs 6:19**). Such people are carnally-minded, and who mind things of the world or of the flesh (**Romans 8:5-6**). They are guilty of acting out of jealousy, anger, contempt, hate, malice and conceit (2 **Corinthians 12:20**). Our attitudes are critical to unity within the church. The truth is, we may have to do some tall changing in order to have unity, but brothers and sisters it is worth it! And when we see the listing of sins that the divisive person is lumped in with....it should cause change quickly for the better (**Galatians 5:19-21; Proverbs 6:16-19**).

THE FRUIT OF DIVISIVENESS

The law of sowing and reaping applies here also. If a person sows a divisiveness spirit, he/she will bring about division, which God condemns. Several obvious undesirable fruits are reaped from divisiveness. The following will illustrate:

1. It arouses an un-Christlike Spirit in the congregation. Love brings unity, unhappiness brings division. Jesus is called the Prince of Peace. Unkind words, unwise accusations, backbiting, gossiping, hard feelings, etc., are not the kind of things that identify with Christ. (**Romans 8:9**)
2. The strength of the congregation is weakened. United we STAND, divided we fall. Satan's plan is to divide and conquer. We must fight the good fight of Faith! When division happens, the cooperation within the congregation is greatly hindered. It's strength has to be expended on dealing with the divisive person rather than reaching the lost and edifying the Body.
3. The Church becomes a scandal in the community. The Church is brought to shame before the vert world that it is supposedly trying to reach. If we are not careful, Satan will win a victory in the very institution founded to overthrow his power. We give occasion to the world to blaspheme the church and the worthy name of Christ (**James 2:7**).
4. It poses a hindrance to unbelievers. Unbelievers' conversion to Christianity can be hindered by division in the church. Men and women who are seeking peace are hesitant to cast their lot with those who show envy, distrust, jealousy, etc., towards one another. A crucified Christ invites the sinner - a divided church repels him (**John 20:20-21**).
5. It places the church in danger of losing its relationship with God. **1 John 4:20; 3:15; Matthew 6:15; James 3:16**. If we are turned from abiding in the doctrine of Christ, we lose our relationship with both the Father and the Son (**2 John 9**).

CONCLUDING THOUGHTS

The oneness of God's people is of primary importance to God! It must also be important to us as well. We need to be a church full of "Peacemakers." For such people are blessed of God, but they in turn are a blessing as well. We need to make peacemaking a top priority in our lives. As I taught earlier in this series, the Body of Christ is different, however, unity in the Body still can and must be Maintained. God established it and He expects His followers to Keep it!