

Unity Commanded...

...Corinth & Everywhere



1 Corinthians 1:10-13

The World View of Christianity

Religious Division

Catholic vs.
Protestants



Liberal Vs.
Conservative

Protestant
Denominations

Between
Members

Religious Division...

- Perpetuates denominationalism
- Increases doctrinal error
- Makes differences of little importance
- Praises diversity as a commendable virtue
 - “Attend the church of your choice!”
 - “One church is as good as another”
 - “As long as you believe in Jesus...”



*In the early church,
“The Problem of Religious Division”
was taken seriously!*

Severity of the Problem at Corinth

1 Corinthians 1:10-13



• Paul...

- Pleads for unity in Jesus Christ, **vs. 10**
- Appeals to the authority of Christ, **vs. 10**
- Identifies division in the church, **vs. 11**
- Describes the impression of division , **vs. 12-13**
 - Men worshipped, rather than Christ
- Is Christ is Divided?

Luther

Wesley

Smith

Calvin

Pope

Graham

Osteen

Understanding the Need for Unity

- Paul identifies the causes for division in the church, **1Corinthians 3:1-4**



CARNAL: Sensual passions and appetites; Carnal pleasures, not spiritual; temporal; being of the world

FEELINGS, EMOTIONS

- Jesus gives two reasons for unity, **John 17:20-21**
- Jesus describes church unity, **Matthew 16:13-20**
- Paul speaks of unity, **Ephesians 4:1-6**



The Solution to the Problem

- **All speak the same thing, vs. 10**
 - **Easier said than done**
 - **Unity commanded, not a choice**
- **Unity can be obtain by following Peter's words**
 - **1 Peter 4:11**, “If any man speak, *let him speak* as the oracles of God; if any man minister, *let him do it* as of the ability which God giveth: that God in all things may be glorified through Jesus Christ, to whom be praise and dominion for ever and ever.”



Restoration Plea: “*Speak where the Bible speaks and be silent where the Bible is silent.*”

The Solution to the Problem

- **All joined together with same mind, vs. 10**
 - Speaking with one mind from God's word
 - Striving to have the mind of Jesus Christ, **Philippians 2:1-9; 1 Peter 3:8-9**
- **All joined together with same judgment, vs. 10**
 - All with same knowledge, & reasoning
 - All working toward the same goal (HEAVEN)



Unity in Christ is Not :
“Majority rule”, “Traditions of men”, or
“Personal feelings”

Christians are...

- Expected to abide by the apostles' doctrine in every church



- **Acts 2:42**, “they continued steadfastly in the apostles’ doctrine and fellowship, and in breaking of bread, and in prayers.”
- **1 Corinthians 4:17**, Paul said he sent Timothy to Corinth, “to bring them into remembrance of my ways which be in Christ, as I teach every where in every church.”
- **1 Corinthians 14:37**, “any man think himself to be a prophet, or spiritual, let him acknowledge that the things that I write unto you are the commandments of the Lord.”

Christianity Should Be...

- **Viewed by the world as being:**
 - **1Corinthians 1:10**, “perfectly joined together”
 - **1Corinthians 12:12-27**, “tempered together”
 - **Ephesians 2:21**, “fitly framed together”
 - **Ephesians 2:22**, “built together”
 - **Ephesians 4:16**, “fitly joined together”
 - **Colossians 2:3, 19**, “nourished and knit together”
 - **1 Corinthians 10:17**, “we being many are one”



“ONE CHURCH”

Unity Commanded...

...Corinth & Everywhere

**Do We
Meet God's
Expectations ?**

