

Acts #38 “Dividing To End Division” *Acts 6:1-7; 1st Cor 1:10-13; Eph 4:11-16; 1st Tim 3:8-13*

People are held responsible; not only for what they know but also for what they could have known had they tried to search for it.

Many fear that a further search for the truth will mean a change in behavior may be asked of them, a change that their sinful hearts aren't willing to make.

And so, they intentionally don't search for the truth but suppress it and such deliberate ignorance God will not excuse anyone; Romans 1:18-20.

So, if we don't want to be destroyed but have God's perfect peace which produces stable minds, we must not reject God's truth but welcome it and that attitude will bring unity to the body of Christ and never division.

'In the Name of our Lord Jesus Christ' means by way of Jesus Christ's authority and Paul follows this with three exhortations (encouragements by means of argument, appeal or admonition, which is a warning) and this is God's purpose for believers: first: 'that all of you agree with one another in what you say' which means expressing the same content, not the same words; it's speaking divine viewpoint, the Bible viewpoint, rather than satanic or human viewpoint.

This first exhortation is very important because the positive impact of the Corinthian church on the community of Corinth and that area of Greece has gone down to almost nothing because people are misinformed as to what Christianity really is.

The more of the Word of God there is in the souls of the congregation, the more there is uniformity of God's opinion over and against human opinion on any given subject.

And so, speaking the same thing doesn't mean repeating the same vocabulary but expressing the same content and that requires mental awareness.

It is impossible to express divine viewpoint apart from knowledge of the mind of Christ, knowledge of the Word of God and this exhortation anticipates the sins of the tongue which result from mental attitude sins.

The only way believers can be perfectly united or joined together is to be constantly filled with the Spirit through God's recovery technique in *1st John 1:9*.

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Is Christ divided? The answer, of course is no; this first question attacks the hypocrisy of the fourth group; the proud followers of Christ, a holier-than-thou party, a falsely-spir/group who believe they've arrived by their spirituality from human effort.

They don't really have their eyes on Christ, they're just using Jesus Christ as a front.

Spirituality by human effort is the confusing of the means and the result in phase 2 of the plan of God.

The filling of the Holy Spirit is our means of witnessing, our means of prayer, our means of worship, our means of giving and our means of everything else.

Positionally, every believer is in union with Christ and experientially, every believer should be occupied with Christ.

The Corinthian believers were not entered into union with Paul, they were entered into union with Jesus Christ and this misunderstanding of false doctrine caused great harm to the church due to arrogant divisiveness.

Greater-grace capacity for life always expresses itself and even though this is the devil's world, Jesus Christ controls history, so there is always an opportunity to express our capacity for life.

God not only provided the capacity through His Word but He's provided the areas for expression of His Son's character through us in the devil's world.

Pastor-teachers have been provided by God to communicate His truth.

As we respond positively and receive that biblical truth, we reach spiritual maturity, so the ultimate objective is the greater-grace life which glorifies God.

Basically, local church divisions are caused because there is a confusion regarding divine viewpoint and human viewpoint but there's another cause for dissension: operation ego with each group contending that they're right and trying to impose their system and themselves on the congregation as its leaders.

Complainers can't help but spread discontent throughout their churches and it's sadly, a common satanically motivated practice.

We can moan and whine to everyone who'll listen and some who won't but the only people who can do something about it is us.

When someone complains to others even if they're involved but can't do much about it, that's this type of complaining.

The Greek word for right means pleasing to God or fitting in His sight; in other words, it's contrary to the Word and plan of God for pastors to become heavily involved in church administration.

The principle is that anything that keeps the pastor from studying and teaching must be eliminated and that is why leadership duties are divided and administration is conducted by another type of leadership in the local church.

"We will give ourselves" is literally, "we will endure" with prayer and the ministry of the Word indicates that in the study and teaching of the Word, there's a quality that is absolutely necessary and that's endurance.

It isn't always pleasant; it isn't easy, it means concentration for long periods of time and all that goes with it.

Concentration comes from knowledge of biblical truth and we cannot pray if we cannot concentrate.

We cannot learn the Word and teach it if we cannot concentrate on it.

The result of now having those who concentrated on teaching the Word along with those who concentrated on administration was fantastic.

Acts 6:7 says: "So the word of God spread" and that means that the apostles could study and teach and therefore the teaching of the Word increased. The Word of God kept on expanding or increasing; in other words, those whose responsibility it was to teach the Word could spend their time studying to prepare.