

A House Divided

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Mike Miller

Straight Paths Bible Church

1 Cor 1:10-11 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. 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. One of the most important things that make for peace, happiness, and fruitfulness in a church, a marriage, a family, or any group of people is that they be like-minded.

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

- A. Nothing can be accomplished if everyone is of a different opinion.
- B. You cannot influence others for God if your group is fragmented and full of confusion because of disagreements and discords.
- C. Unless you are like-minded and in unity you can have no purpose or direction.

- II. How can we be like-minded?

- A. You can pressure people to comply with rules and standards, and even exclude them if they don't, but you cannot force people to be of the same mind.
- B. People may join and be an active part of a social organization, without being in agreement with the stated purposes and standards that organization stands for.
- C. You can put on an outward show of unity but if the hearts and minds of the people are not in agreement together it is a vain show.
- D. There are some reasons why people are like-minded or divided.

- III. What are the reasons people are like-minded or in disagreement?

- A. People generally group themselves according to philosophies and beliefs.
 - 1. These are the things that form the strongest ties between people.
 - 2. Even family ties can be broken over different philosophies and beliefs.
 - 3. "Birds of a feather..."
- B. We believe what we do and have the opinions that we have because of who and what we listen to and are influenced by.
- C. Division comes into a church or a family or a nation when someone starts listening to other voices and opinions.
 - 1. Philosophies change when we start drinking in knowledge from poisoned sources.
- D. Divisions come when ambitions change.
 - 1. When people find someone or something else they want to identity with.
 - 2. When the goals they want to achieve for themselves or the church or family.
- E. Divisions come when someone starts listening to the agenda of someone else who is passionate about some other cause.
 - 1. Everyone seems to have their own agenda of what is important and they try to convince everyone else to agree with them.
- F. The influences on your life – what you listen to and what you look at, are what you WILL BE.

- IV. If a church, a family, a couple, or any group of people is to be in agreement they must have the same guide for the influences they allow on their lives.
- A. There are churches that make rules for conduct and if you comply with the rules you are accepted as a good member of that church.
 - 1. The thing about this is that it is no different that any other worldly organization.
 - B. The Spirit of God is the difference in the people of God – He is our guide to all truth.

John 16:13 **Howbeit when he, the Spirit of truth, is come, he will guide you into all truth:...**

- C. So the biggest reason for the disunity in the church is the lack of people who are filled and led by the Spirit of God.
- D. They are walking after the flesh and guided by the world, the flesh, and the devil and they are in the midst of the church, which is bound to cause division.
- E. There is only one solution and one way for the church to be in one accord:

2 Corinthians 6:14-18 **Be ye not unequally yoked together with unbelievers: for what fellowship hath righteousness with unrighteousness? and what communion hath light with darkness? And what concord hath Christ with Belial? or what part hath he that believeth with an infidel? 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. Wherefore come out from among them, and be ye separate, saith the Lord, and touch not the unclean thing; and I will receive you, And will be a Father unto you, and ye shall be my sons and daughters, saith the Lord Almighty.**

- F. This means more than marrying unbelievers or being in some kind of business partnership with them.
 - 1. It means not giving them your ear or your eye or your mind.
 - 2. It means to learn from those that love God and live holy lives and learn not the way of the heathen.
 - 3. It means to strive to learn of the holy and strive to ignore thee profane and ungodly of this world.
 - 4. It means to be strong enough in the Lord and the knowledge of the holy to be an influence on them, instead of falling under the influence of their deceit and ignorance.