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# BIBLE TALK

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Hi, welcome to "Bible Talk." This week the question is this: *"Is Christ divided?"*

## **1 Corinthians 1:13**

<sup>13</sup> Is Christ divided? Was Paul crucified for you? Or were you baptized in the name of Paul?

When the apostle Paul asked this question he was expecting everyone to answer, "No!" "No," Christ is not divided. "No," Paul was not crucified for us and "No," we were not baptized in the name of Paul.

The church of Christ at Corinth was badly divided. Some members thought they were better than others because of who baptized them. Notice verses 11 and 12:

## **1 Corinthians 1:11-12**

<sup>11</sup> For it has been declared to me concerning you, my brethren, by those of Chloe's household, that there are contentions among you.

<sup>12</sup> Now I say this, that each of you says, "I am of Paul," or "I am of Apollos," or "I am of Cephas," or "I am of Christ."

Rather than being united together in one mind and striving to work together, the Corinthians were divided and competing with one another. The congregation had become divided and was on the verge of a complete split. Notice what the apostle commanded them:

## **1 Corinthians 1:10**

<sup>10</sup> Now I plead with you, brethren, by the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that you all speak the same thing, and that there be no divisions among you, but that you be perfectly joined together in the same mind and in the same judgment.

To the Philippian church the apostle wrote:

**Philippians 1:27**

<sup>27</sup> Only let your conduct be worthy of the gospel of Christ, so that whether I come and see you or am absent, I may hear of your affairs, that you stand fast in one spirit, with one mind striving together for the faith of the gospel,

**Philippians 2:2**

<sup>2</sup> fulfill my joy by being like-minded, having the same love, being of one accord, of one mind.

**Philippians 3:16**

<sup>16</sup> Nevertheless, to the degree that we have already attained, let us walk by the same rule, let us be of the same mind.

**DIVISION IS A SIN**

Over and over again we are commanded to have unity. Over and over again the Bible warns us not to be divided. Division is a sin. Do you realize that division is condemned more frequently in the New Testament than any other sin? Think about that for a moment! Division is condemned more frequently than:

- *Adultery*
- *Drunkenness*
- *Idolatry*
- *Hypocrisy*
- *Covetousness*

Division is carnal:

**1 Corinthians 3:3**

<sup>3</sup> for you are still carnal. For where there are envy, strife, and divisions among you, are you not carnal and behaving like mere men?

Being carnally minded results in death:

### **Romans 8:6**

<sup>6</sup> For to be carnally minded is death, ...

Religious denominations is a curse and a sin! Yet, it's one of the most respectable sins in the world. Many pride themselves in their denomination. Many love their denomination more than they love the word of God.

Solomon listed seven things which God hates. Listen carefully to the last thing on the list:

### **Proverbs 6:16-19**

<sup>16</sup> These six things the LORD hates,  
Yes, seven are an abomination to Him:

<sup>17</sup> A proud look,

A lying tongue,

Hands that shed innocent blood,

<sup>18</sup> A heart that devises wicked plans,

Feet that are swift in running to evil,

<sup>19</sup> A false witness who speaks lies,

And one who sows discord among brethren.

Listen carefully to this list of things that God despises: pride, lying, murder, wicked thinking, false witnesses, and notice the last thing, "*one who sows discord among brethren.*"

Concerning those who would try to divide the Lord's church and invent their own ways of worship, hear what the apostle wrote:

### **Romans 16:17-18**

<sup>17</sup> Now I urge you, brethren, note those who cause divisions and offenses, contrary to the doctrine which you learned, and avoid them.

<sup>18</sup> For those who are such do not serve our Lord Jesus Christ, but their own belly, and by smooth words and flattering speech deceive the hearts of the simple.

Listen to that! Those who divide the Lord's church are not serving the Lord; they are serving their own selves! No matter how pious, reverent, and godly a preacher or priest may seem, when they divide the body of Christ and introduce innovative worship and doctrines, they are not working for the Lord.

## **UNITY BASED ON TRUTH**

The New Testament scriptures teach that we must have unity that is based upon truth. There are seven major doctrines which we must agree upon to have unity that is pleasing to God:

### **Ephesians 4:3-6**

<sup>3</sup> endeavoring to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace.

<sup>4</sup> There is one body and one Spirit, just as you were called in one hope of your calling;

<sup>5</sup> one Lord, one faith, one baptism;

<sup>6</sup> one God and Father of all, who is above all, and through all, and in you all.

Here is the list given by the Lord which we must be united upon:

- 1) **One body**. This is the church (Eph. 1:22-23). We must agree upon having only one church of Jesus Christ, not differing denominations.
- 2) **One Spirit**. This is the Holy Spirit, equal and one with God the Father.
- 3) **One hope**. The hope of going to heaven when this world ends.
- 4) **One Lord**. The Lord Jesus Christ who possesses all authority in heaven and in earth; who demands the loyal devotion and obedience of all who would be saved.
- 5) **One faith**. The book of faith, for faith comes from the word of God. This is the Bible and the Bible only.
- 6) **One baptism**. An immersion in water in the name of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit for the remission of sins.
- 7) **One God**. The Father of the Lord Jesus who, together with the Son and Holy Spirit forms the one God of the Bible.

Upon these seven items we can agree and we can have the unity which the Lord prayed for in John 17.

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

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Call again next week when we consider a new subject on **Bible Talk**.