

## DIVISION AT CORINTH!

### UNITY IS MORE THAN:

- A. A Kumbaya moment around the campfire [We are one in the Spirit..."]
- B. Making more and more Christian friends outside my church!

### HERE'S THE PROBLEM:

Hos 6.1-4 - "Come, and let us return to the Lord;

For He has torn, but He will heal us;

He has stricken, but He will bind us up.

<sup>2</sup>After two days He will revive us;

On the third day He will raise us up,

That we may live in His sight.

<sup>3</sup>Let us know,

Let us pursue the knowledge of the Lord.

His going forth is established as the morning;

He will come to us like the rain,

Like the latter and former rain to the earth.

<sup>4</sup>"O Ephraim, what shall I do to you?

O Judah, what shall I do to you?

For your faithfulness is like a morning cloud,

And like the early dew it goes away. [\*\*Dry snow...Peter]

### REVIEW

1. Paul's first item of business with the Corinthian {E} Church was the division reported by Chloe's family.
2. 'Unity' is counterfeited and impersonated by the flesh. [Pig with lipstick.]
  - a. Conformity is not unity. [Intimidation]
  - b. Flesh loves when faults are removed.
  - c. GOD'S LOVE... covers multitudes of sins.
  - d. Spirit knocks at THE 'LAODICEAN DOOR'
    - i. leads us into all reality
    - ii. into all true unity!
3. God is the source of all true unity
  - a. He modeled it at the cross.
  - b. I will remember your sins no more!
  - c. HIS LOVE ENDURES FOREVER!
4. God's 'unity' becomes ours as we become like Him!
  - a. Seeing Him changes us into who he is.
  - b. Seekers find!
5. Unity among us:
  - a. Grace people won't 'despise' law people.
  - b. Law people won't 'judge' grace people.
  - c. We will 'receive' each other... just as God in Christ has received us!
6. CROSSOVER'S FUTURE:
  - a. More members will
    - i. Privately, secretly and personally seek God diligently until they find Him.
    - ii. Will be changed into the image that they see.
    - iii. HIS UNITY... HIS WAY OF LOVING... BECOMES... OURS!!

SIN...

is not the challenge to true unity!  
SIN... is not unity's obstacle...  
It's unity's OBJECT!

THAT'S THE POINT OF THE CROSS:  
I will give you love  
When you don't deserve it!

A 'LAW CHURCH'  
Has unity dependent on  
sinless perfection.  
That's conformity...  
NOT UNITY!

A 'GRACE CHURCH'  
Has unity dependent on  
The Cross of Jesus!

He loves us  
IN SPITE OF  
Our sins!  
THEREFORE...  
We love him back!

AND IN CHURCH:  
We love each other...  
IN SPITE OF OUR SINS...  
And as a result...  
We love each other back!

GOD doesn't unite with us  
Because we perform well...  
But because he has grace!

And WE unite with each other...  
Not because we perform well...  
But because we have grace!

Heb 8.12 - <sup>12</sup>For I will be MERCIFUL TO THEIR UNRIGHTEOUSNESS, AND THEIR SINS AND THEIR LAWLESS DEEDS I WILL REMEMBER NO MORE."

SO...  
WE ALSO SAY

TO OUR SPOUSE...FAMILIES...FRIENDS...OUR CHURCH...

AND...

ALL OF HUMANITY:

"I will have mercy on your wickedness  
And will remember your sins no more"

GOD...  
WHO IS... PERFECT... SINLESS... HOLY...  
ALL-SEEING... ALL-KNOWING...  
Is united with us... RIGHT NOW!

THAT'S UNITY!  
Not based on our sinless perfection...  
BUT BASED ON  
OUR RECEIVING HIS GRACE...  
THROUGH JESUS CHRIST!

UNITY:  
God's sin-covering...  
Enduring forever...  
FAITHFUL-KIND-OF-LOVE  
FOR US...

Transplanted into  
The hearts of people...  
For each other!  
THAT'S UNITY!

THIS CROSSOVER SNOWBALL  
WILL BE MOIST...  
FIRMLY  
COMPACTED TOGETHER...  
AND IT ISN'T  
GOING TO  
FALL APART...  
EVER!!

UNITY IS:  
THE DURABILITY  
FAITHFULNESS  
FOREVERNESS  
STICK-TO-IT-IVENESS  
OF GOD'S KIND-OF-LOVE

ESPECIALLY WHEN EXPOSED TO:  
THE UNDESERVING  
SHORT-LIVED  
UNFAITHFUL LOVE  
OF PEOPLE!!!!

SO...  
If it isn't sin  
That divides us and  
Produces division among us...  
WHAT DOES?  
DIVISION AT CORINTH!

1 Cor 3.1-4 - And I, brethren, could not speak to you as to spiritual people but as to carnal, as to babes in Christ.

SPIRITUAL: PNEUMATIKOS [adj]:  
Given to the Spirit.  
Of the Spirit. Influenced by the Spirit.  
OUT OF THE REALM OF THE SPIRIT!  
When we're operating  
according to  
Our spiritual senses!

CARNAL: SARKINOS [adj]:  
Fleshly. Given to the flesh.  
OUT OF THE REALM OF THE FLESH!  
They were operating  
According to  
Their... natural senses!

<sup>2</sup>I fed you with milk and not with solid food; for until now you were not able to receive it, and even now you are still not able; <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? <sup>4</sup>For when one says, "I am of Paul," and another, "I am of Apollos," are you not carnal?

WHO'S 'MATURE?'  
"CHARACTER! THAT'S THE ISSUE!"  
Mow your lawn.  
Pay your taxes.  
Be on time!  
Kiss your wife!  
"YES, SIR!  
THAT'S CHRISTIAN MATURITY!" [\*\*SPIRITUAL...]

WHO'S FILLED WITH THE SPIRIT?  
The one who dances the hardest  
And claps the loudest?  
The one who speaks in tongues the most...  
And lays hands on more sick people?

OR...  
The one who doesn't hold offenses...  
Who carries no bitterness of their own...  
Or for others.

FORGIVING AND UNIFYING  
DIVIDED AND HURT PEOPLE!

THE ONE WHO LOVES:  
WHO GOD LOVES...  
HOW GOD LOVES THEM...  
WHY GOD LOVES THEM...  
AND... NEVER STOPS!

FOUR  
symptoms  
that result from  
letting the flesh  
TAKE A CHURCH OVER:

ENVY [FEELINGS]:  
- Jealousy. Heated emotions.  
STRIFE [WORDS]:  
Quarreling. Fighting.  
Debating. Being at odds.  
DIVISIONS [ACTIONS]:

Factional Parties.

A party spirit!

Dividing up into groups!

COMPARATIVISM:

- Making people
- what God never made them...
- and we identify ourselves around them!

Carnality...

results in clusters of people  
gathering around personalities...

Resulting in groups

Competing... and quarreling.

\*\*LIKE CURDS IN SOUR MILK

Gal 5.20 - <sup>19</sup>Now the works of the flesh are evident, which are: adultery, fornication, uncleanness, lewdness, <sup>20</sup>idolatry, sorcery, hatred, contentions, jealousies, outbursts of wrath, selfish ambitions, DISSENSIONS, HERESIES, <sup>21</sup>envy, murders, drunkenness, revelries, and the like; of which I tell you beforehand, just as I also told you in time past, that those who practice such things will not inherit the kingdom of God.

DISSENSIONS:

DICHOSTASI'A:

DIS: Two

STASIS: Standing or position.

Two standings.

Standing separately or standing apart.

DIS----UNITY!

HERESIES

HAI'RESIS

A strong, distinctive,

Specific and divisive opinion...

Resulting in groups... sects or parties...

Rallying around that choice or opinion.

Forming rival, disunited

parties or separated groups

within the church!

'FLESH'!

"Well! That's synonymous with sin!"

NOT QUITE!

'Flesh' is an earthly,

natural mindset

that most people

coming into the church

will have!

THAT'S GOOD!

And as they come in...

They're exposed to a new realm...

Consisting of a spiritual mindset...

HOPEFULLY

That is carried by members  
Already 'spiritualized'!

That is like dumping ice cubes  
Into a pot of hot, boiling soup!  
[Holy Spirit being the gas flame]

And most new members will...  
Given time...  
melt into the  
Spirit-rich environment  
That is built there for that  
Very purpose!

BUT IF SOME CARNALLY-MINDED  
PEOPLE DECIDE TO STAY...

And they become  
stubbornly resistant  
against the Holy Spirit's  
influence in the church?

If they try enforce their  
Carnal mind on the church...  
And begin to 'chill' the soup?

Then the Spirit who welcomes them...  
Will eventually begin to resist them...  
And...

WAR... DIVISION ... HAS BEGUN! [Resists the proud]

Gal 5.17 [AMPC] - <sup>17</sup>For the desires of the flesh are opposed to the [Holy] Spirit, and the [desires of the] Spirit are opposed to the flesh (godless human nature); for these are ANTAGONISTIC [irreconcilably opposed] TO EACH OTHER [CONTINUALLY WITHSTANDING AND IN CONFLICT WITH EACH OTHER], so that you are not free but are prevented from doing what you desire to do.

SPIRIT = UNITY

FLESH = DIVISION

The more Spirit we share together...

The more unity we share...

AND THE UNITY WE SHARE IN THE SPIRIT...

IS NOT WEAK

IN ITS FIGHT

AGAINST THE FLESH!

THE SPIRITUAL MIND

RESISTS DIVISION...

WHILE THE NATURAL MIND...

SPREADS IT!

2 Cor 10.2-4 - <sup>2</sup>But I beg you that when I am present I may not be bold with that confidence by which I intend to be bold against some, who think of us as if we walked according to the flesh. <sup>3</sup>For though we walk in the flesh, we do not war according to the flesh.

<sup>4</sup>For the weapons of our warfare are NOT CARNAL BUT MIGHTY in God for pulling down strongholds

Paul was NOT...

A 'Quaker'!  
A CHRISTIAN 'PASSIVIST'!  
SPIRITUALITY IS NOT  
STANDING PASSIVELY BY  
WATCHING...  
AS EVIL SAVAGE 'WOLVES' AMONG US  
EAT UP INNOCENT LIVES!

"...after my departure  
SAVAGE WOLVES will come in  
among you, not sparing the flock..."  
VIOLENT/CRUEL/UNMERCIFUL

THE DIFFERENCE  
BETWEEN FLESH AND SPIRIT  
ISN'T WHETHER WE FIGHT...  
WE DO!  
OR WHETHER WE USE WEAPONS!  
THEY'RE MIGHTY!  
THE ISSUE IS...  
WHETHER WE FIGHT...  
LIKE... THE... FLESH... DOES!  
WE DON'T!

They wanted to kill  
The adulteress!  
Watch Jesus coming head-to-head  
With the Pharisees!

He's as strong... EVEN STRONGER!  
But with a DIFFERENT SPIRIT about him!

IN THIS WORLD...  
SPIRIT AND FLESH  
WILL BE AT WAR!  
1. IN US!  
2. IN THE CHURCH!  
3. IN THE WORLD!

IN US:  
PORNOGRAPHY/ADDICTIONS  
IN THE CHURCH:  
SCHISMS AND DIVISIONS  
IN THE WORLD:  
HITLER AND HAMAS!

DOES THIS SOUND WRONG?  
LOVING 'UNITY PEOPLE'...  
...FIGHTING?

"YES SIR!

I'M A ONE-SIZE-FITS-ALL  
CONSCIENTIOUS OBJECTOR!"

1. MY WIFE AND CHILDREN
2. CHRIST: Standing for adulteress. [\*\*GARDEN]
3. PAUL: Facing Peter down publicly.
4. THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION

Jn 18.36 - <sup>36</sup> Jesus answered, "My kingdom is not of this world. If My kingdom were of this world, My servants would fight, so that I should not be delivered to the Jews; but now My kingdom is not from here."

\*\*Benjamin Franklin's  
Great Seal [Aug. 1776]  
"REBELLION TO TYRANTS  
IS OBEDIENCE TO GOD!"

AND IN OUR COUNTRY TODAY:  
THE BATTLE IS  
MORE THAN LEFT VS RIGHT  
MORE THAN TRUMP VS BIDEN...  
UNDERNEATH IT ALL...  
IS SPIRIT VS FLESH!

[THERE'S FLESH ON BOTH SIDES...  
SIN ON BOTH SIDES...]

But if you watch closely...  
With a spiritual mindset...

You can see the  
FLESH/SPIRIT BATTLE  
In the middle of it all!

And you can recognize  
THERE'S A DIFFERENCE...

Not... IF they fight...  
Or... how strongly they fight...

BUT THERE'S A DIFFERENT SPIRIT  
BETWEEN THEM!  
WE... CAN... SEE... THE DIFFERENCE!!

Mtt 10.34-39 - <sup>34</sup> "Do not think that I came to bring peace on earth. I did not come to bring peace but a sword.

DIVISION IN THE CHURCH...  
IS NOT THE RESULT OF SIMPLE SIN!

It's the result of people  
Who's minds are  
SET  
On the flesh!



And have  
Positioned themselves  
To fight against...  
The minds ... in the church...  
that are  
EVEN MORE SET...  
ON THE SPIRIT!

THE SPIRIT GRACIOUSLY...  
PATIENTLY...  
CALLS AND WELCOMES  
THE FLESH...  
INTO SUBMISSION TO ITSELF! [\*\*50 years wait!]

BUT WHEN THE FLESH  
REFUSES AND RESISTS  
THE INVITATION OF THE SPIRIT...

AND THEN  
BEGINS A DIVISIVE  
WAR IN THE CHURCH

THEN...  
THE SPIRIT  
WILL NOT...  
AND CANNOT  
BACK DOWN FROM  
THIS BATTLE...  
AND SIMPLY HAND GOD'S CHILDREN  
OVER TO THE WOLVES!

\*\*RECENT ADVICE  
TO HOMEOWNERS IN CANADA:  
LEAVE YOUR CAR KEYS  
AT THE DOOR!

CANCER IN THE BODY...  
MUST BE CHALLENGED  
AND REMOVED...  
NOT BECAUSE OF HATE...  
BUT BECAUSE OF LOVE!

EVEN THE  
DIVISION  
AT CORINTH  
GOD USED FOR GOOD!

1 Cor 11.17-19 - <sup>17</sup> Now in giving these instructions I do not praise you, since you come together not for the better but for the worse.<sup>18</sup> For first of all, when you come together as a church, I hear that there are DIVISIONS among you, and in part I believe it. <sup>19</sup> FOR THERE MUST ALSO BE FACTIONS AMONG YOU, THAT THOSE WHO ARE APPROVED MAY BE RECOGNIZED AMONG YOU.

IN BUSINESS TERMS...

When you come together...

There is no profit  
coming out of each meeting.

You're taking a loss!

IT DEPENDS ON

WHAT THE MEETING CARRIES:

If it's more soul: You have loss.

INCREASED DIVISION!

If it's more Spirit: You have profit!

INCREASED UNITY!

FLESH AND SPIRIT

WILL BE

CONSTANTLY COLLIDING

IN THE BODY OF CHRIST!

BUT IN GOD'S CHURCH...

if you watch this conflict

in action...

THE SPIRIT will advance...

And Satan... through somebody's flesh

Will make a counter-offensive!

BACK ...AND ...FORTH ...IT ...GOES!

HOW CAN THIS

KIND OF BATTLE

BE HELPFUL?

HOW CAN GOD TURN

EVEN CHURCH DIVISION

INTO SOMETHING GOOD?

\*\*TRUMP'S COMBATIVE...

CONTENTIOUS BEHAVIOR!

SOLOMON:

It's a recipe for conflict!

WITH WHAT RESULT!???

GOOD GUYS BECOME MORE APPARENT

EASIER TO RECOGNIZE...

AND SAME WITH THE BAD!

IN THE SAME WAY

if we didn't see

The jockeying and jostling

Of flesh and Spirit in the Church...

We'd never clearly recognize  
THOSE WHO ARE APPROVED  
among us!  
What's flesh?  
What's God's Spirit?

WATCH THE CONTEST!  
SEE THE BATTLE!  
WORKS OF THE FLESH?  
FRUIT OF THE SPIRIT?

CONFRONTING DIVISION...  
WHICH IS BETTER? 'NICE'? OR 'MEAN'?  
Normally... I'd rather be nice than mean!  
UNTIL IT COMES TO RIGHTEOUS WAR!

Better are the wounds of a friend  
Than the kisses of an enemy!

You're held captive?  
I'll attack your captors.  
I'll be nice to you... but mean to them!

Cause 'nice' doesn't work well  
on the truly wicked!

You have a demon!  
I'll yell it out of you...  
But that doesn't mean  
That I don't love you!

I'd rather attack Hitler with Winston Churchill  
Than try to appease him  
with Neville Chamberlain!

I'd rather seem mean  
saving somebody's life  
Than be nice while I  
watch them die!

We're in a global war right now, folks!  
MILLIONS OF LIVES ARE AT STAKE!  
Watch and measure the battle accordingly!

1 Cor 1.12 - 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."

I'M OF JOSEPH PRINCE  
I'M OF ANDREW WOMMACK  
I'M OF THE ASSEMBLIES OF GOD  
I'M OF THE LUTHERAN CHURCH  
I'M OF JIM BAKER  
JEREMY PEARSON

ROBBIE PATTERSON  
PHIL AMENE  
I'M OF BOB CLARK  
OR...  
I'M OF JESUS!

I'M OF HEALING!  
I'M OF PROPHECY!  
I'M OF EVANGELISM!  
JASON: "I'M OF LOVE!"

"I'm of the Sells!  
I'm of the Slaters!  
I'm of the Hunts!  
I'M ...OF ...JESUS!"

To voice 'who I'm of'  
vs  
'who I'm not of'  
and  
'who you are of' ...  
is a carnal display  
of immaturity.

LOOK AT HOW  
UNITY WAS FOUNDATIONAL  
TO GIFTS AND MINISTRIES IN  
THE CORINTHIAN CHURCH!

Chaps 1-3  
Division and the need for unity!  
Chap 11  
Communion:  
The basis of our unity in Christ

1 Cor 12.31 - <sup>31</sup> But earnestly desire THE BEST gifts. And yet I show you a MORE EXCELLENT way.

UNITY WAS  
ALSO  
FOUNDATIONAL  
TO GIFTS AND MINISTRIES  
IN THE  
EPHESIAN CHURCH!

Eph 4.1-7 - I, therefore, the prisoner of the Lord, beseech you to walk worthy of the calling with which you were called, <sup>2</sup> with all lowliness and gentleness, with longsuffering, bearing with one another in love, <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.

<sup>7</sup> But to EACH ONE of us grace was given according to the measure of Christ's gift.

IN UNDERSTANDING  
THE BODY OF CHRIST...  
WE MUST

PRIORITIZE UNITY...  
BEFORE AND OVER...  
MINISTRY!

1 Cor 12.7 - <sup>7</sup> But the manifestation of the Spirit is given to each one for the profit of all!

1 Cor 14.5 - I wish you all spoke with tongues, but even more that you prophesied; for he who prophesies is greater than he who speaks with tongues, unless indeed he interprets, that THE CHURCH MAY RECEIVE EDIFICATION.

1 Cor 14.12 - Even so you, since you are zealous for spiritual gifts, let it be for the EDIFICATION OF THE CHURCH that you seek to excel.

1 Cor 14.26 - How is it then, brethren? Whenever you come together, each of you has a psalm, has a teaching, has a tongue, has a revelation, has an interpretation. Let all things be done for EDIFICATION.

Every person in the church  
With a gift, grace or ministry  
Must not be self-focused...  
But MUST BE...  
BODY-FOCUSED!

When our shared-identity  
Is enjoyed as we  
rally around our ministry...  
as the core of  
'who we are' in the church...

Then we will  
USE THE CHURCH  
To build our ministry...  
And the result is division.

But... when our shared-identity  
Is around CHRIST... THE HEAD...  
AND THE CHURCH... HIS BODY...  
The core of our identity  
Being Christ Himself...

Then we will  
USE OUR MINISTRIES  
To build  
HIS BODY...  
And the result is unity!

The hand should realize...  
That it will help itself  
By feeding the body!  
If the body prospers...  
So will the hand.

BUT IF IT LACKS  
THE UNDERSTANDING...  
THAT IT  
NEEDS

THE BODY...  
AND IT ONLY  
CARES FOR ITSELF?

IT, TOO, WILL DIE...  
Along with the body  
It so foolishly  
Ignored...  
Undervalued...  
And disrespected!!

The church isn't here  
To edify the ministry of healing...  
The ministry of healing is here  
to edify the church!

The church isn't here  
to edify the prophetic ministry!  
The prophetic ministry is here  
To edify the church!

The church isn't here to edify  
The evangelistic ministry!  
The evangelistic ministry  
Is here to edify the church!

When we hold the church responsible  
to support our ministries...  
We have division.

But when we see our ministries  
As being responsible  
BEFORE GOD...  
to support the church...  
WE HAVE UNITY!

WHICH COMES FIRST?  
THE CHICKEN?  
OR THE EGG?  
WHICH COMES FIRST?  
THE BODY PART?  
OR THE BODY?

People with  
Strong ministry gifts  
that move  
from church to church  
and their priority is  
their own freedom... liberty...  
and expression  
of their ministry...

THIS KIND OF SPIRIT...  
IS A CANCER  
IN THE BODY OF CHRIST.

But when people with  
STRONG MINISTRY GIFTS...  
Move into a church...  
And their priority  
Is to love and build up that church  
Using their gifts and ministries  
To accomplish that goal?  
THEY ARE GOD'S GIFTS...  
GOD'S ANGELS...  
BRINGING GOD'S UNITY...  
HEALING AND BLESSING...  
TO THE BODY OF CHRIST!

AND  
GREAT  
WILL BE  
THEIR REWARD  
IN HEAVEN!!