

"THE WORDS OF THE LORD ARE PURE WORDS, LIKE SILVER TRIED IN
A FURNACE OF EARTH, PURIFIED SEVEN TIMES.
YOU SHALL KEEP THEM, O LORD, YOU SHALL PRESERVE THEM FROM
THIS GENERATION FOREVER." (PSALM 12: 6 & 7)

www.oakhillministries.org ■ 2115 Graefenburg Road ■ Lawrenceburg, KY 40342
JUNE 4, 2009

“A Time to Separate”

“Then Jesus said to them, “Take heed and beware of the leaven of the Pharisees and the Sadducees.” (Matthew 16:6)

“A little leaven leavens the whole lump.” (Galatians 5:9)

“Come out from among them and be separate, says the Lord. Do not touch what is unclean, and I will receive you.” (2 Corinthians 6:17)

*“Come out of her, my people, lest you share in her sins, and lest you receive of her plagues. For her sins have reached to heaven, and God has remembered her iniquities.”
(Revelation 18:4&5)*

In my last letter, I addressed the subject of “**Division**” as it relates to “Believers”; believers being those who profess to believe in Christ. I attempted, as best I could, with the help of God’s word, to show how God views division within His family. He hates it! As I pointed out in “Believers Divided Await Desolation”, Jesus declared that “Division” produces the fruit of devastation and ruin (Matthew 12:25). Actually, there is a spiritual precept, or law, that applies to Division and its opposite, Unity. Sadly, few of us are aware of this law, and many who are, have little understanding of how it works. As I concluded my last letter, I left a question unanswered; “Should a follower of Christ, who is pursuing oneness with Him, ever separate from fellowship with others who claim to be Christian?” As we continue, I will attempt to answer this question according to the Word of God. May He grant all of us a deeper understanding of this most important subject.

While “Unity” among believers is our Father’s will for His people, and where there is true “unity”, Father’s blessing will follow; there is a time when the child of God is commanded to separate himself or herself from others who are “professing” believers. In short, the answer to our question: “Should a follower of Christ, who is pursuing oneness with Him, ever separate from fellowship with others who claim to be Christian? ----- the answer is ----- YES!

One of the first examples we are given on the power of unity is found in Genesis chapter eleven. We also see in this example that unity among men is not always in harmony with God. In fact, “unity”, apart from a true unity in Christ, that is born out of a love of the Truth as expressed by God through His

word, is not necessarily good, and will not receive His blessing. Never the less, there is power in unity, both good and evil. The dark side of unity is shown in Genesis chapter eleven, verse six:

“And the Lord said, “Indeed the people are one (in unity) and they all have one language, and this is what they begin to do; now nothing that they purpose to do will be withheld from them.”

The people were in unity and they were determined to build a city and a tower into the heavens in an effort to preserve their unity and make a name for themselves (pride) (see verses 1-4). Then came God’s response to this example of unity: *“Come let Us go down and there confuse their language, that they may not understand one another’s speech.” So the Lord scattered them abroad from there over the face of all the earth, and they ceased building the city.”* (Vs. 7&8)

Clearly, unity apart from God, will not receive His blessing. However when a man comes into agreement with God, through His word, and that man comes into fellowship with another like minded man, the two men are an expression of “unity” that pleases God and allows Him to express Himself through them in power! All other unity for the sake of unity, among professing believers, is powerless as it relates to the blessing of God; and from such, He says we should separate ourselves: *“having a form of godliness but denying its power and from such people turn away.”* (2 Timothy 3:5)

“Can two walk together, unless they are agreed?” (Amos 3:3)

The problem with modern-day Christianity is that the vast majority of professing believers in Christ and members of a church are uncircumcised of heart (Acts 7:51). They are not “born-again” by Biblical standard (John 3:3 & 5-8, John 1:13, Mark 16:16-18); they may have “joined” a church but have not been born into “the church”; one being of man the other of God. They cannot understand the things of God and are void of the Spirit of God (1 Corinthians 2:14). They are yet in their sins, not realizing that all of their practice of religion ----- all of their good works ----- ALL is in vain. For the “many” there is a unity of “form” and “tradition”, but not of Truth, except in the vain imagination of the participants; of such, our lord said:

“These people draw near to Me with their mouth, and honor Me with their lips, but their heart is far from Me. And in vain they worship Me, teaching as doctrines the commandments of men.” (Matthew 15:8 & 9)

“Many will say to Me in that day, “Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in Your name, cast out demons in Your name, and done many wonders in Your name?” And then I will declare to them, I never knew you; depart from Me, you who practice lawlessness!” (Matthew 7: 22 & 23)

As I have stated previously, true unity among professing believers is grounded in a mutual love and devotion for Jesus Christ. This love and devotion supersedes all other affections and beliefs, including those for family, friends, church, etc. Simply put, where there is true unity, the first and great commandment is being met:

“Teacher, which is the great commandment in the law? Jesus said to him, “You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind. This is the first and great commandment.” (Matthew 22:36 - 38)

Where there is unity, grounded in a mutual love and affection for our Lord and God, there will always be found a love for His word. Father's word and Christ are One and the same (John 1:1 & 14). The word of God contains His commandments, precepts, and judgments ----- His law. In Jeremiah chapter 31, verses 31 thru 34 (also confirmed in Hebrews 8:10 – 13), Father promised to establish a new covenant through Christ. That new covenant was confirmed by Christ when He clearly stated that obedience to His word was the only proof that a person loved Him (John 14:21, 23 & 24). He also stated that His word would judge each of us in the end (John 12:48).

Our Lord, the Living Word of God, declared that if we “abide” in His word, only then, would we become His disciple (John 8:31); and that His word would inform us of the “Truth” and that Truth would set us free (John 8:32 & 36). He then stated that those who were unable to listen to His word were not of God, but rather were of the devil (John 8: 43 – 47). I quote here verse 47: “*He who is of God hears God's words; therefore you do not hear, because you are not of God.*”

Dear reader, beware of the father of lies who brings to you “another gospel”, a perverted gospel (Galatians 1: 6 – 10); a gospel that appears to be light and righteousness (2 Corinthians 11: 14 – 15); beware of a gospel brought to you that is not in harmony with the full counsel of God's word, especially when the messenger is dressed as preacher, teacher, prophet, apostle, priest, pope, evangelist. The voice that questions the validity of God's word, is the voice of Lucifer, that first spoke to man in the Garden (Genesis 3:1-5). The liar, who speaks much of love, says “you will not surely die”. Those who succumb to the message that contradicts God's word will be condemned. Failure to believe God, from a heart that desires to obey God, has always resulted in the same thing ----- Death! I have said many times, apart from a heart that desires to obey God, there is no salvation. Apart from the Spirit of God circumcising the heart and impregnating it with a love for Father's law ----- His word ----- His commandments, precepts and judgments (Jeremiah 31:31 – 33 & Hebrews 8: 10 – 13) ----- there has been no spiritual re-birth!

God's word is clear on this matter of having a love for the truth. Our problem today is that we are so lazy that we refuse to immerse ourselves in the Word of God, and plead with Him to protect us from deception and our own affections (2 Corinthians 6: 12), and lead us into all Truth (John 16: 13). Most of us, having acquired a fast-food drive-thru mentality prefer to rely on the “company line” of our denomination, sect, church or favorite preacher, priest or teacher. Failing to search the Word on our own, under the tutorship of the Holy Spirit, we assume that “our” church ----- “our” denomination ---- “our” preacher, has the truth and is leading us in The Way of Truth (John 14: 6). Maybe ----- Maybe Not!

Dear Reader, I declare to you that with eternity at stake, only a fool would rely on another “man's” truth. Listen to the Word of God and be warned:

*“The coming of the lawless one is according to the working of Satan, with all power, signs and lying wonders, and with all unrighteous deception among those who perish, because they did not receive the love of the truth; that they might be saved. And for this reason God will send them strong delusion, that they should believe the lie, that they all may be condemned who did not believe the truth but had pleasure in unrighteousness.” (2 Thessalonians 2:9 – 12) *Emphasis Added**

“Work out your own salvation with fear and trembling.” (Philippians 2:12b)

“But on this one I will look: On him who is poor and of a contrite spirit, and who trembles at My word.” (Isaiah 66:2b)

Before God, I ask you: Do you have a love for the Truth? Do you tremble before the Word of God? Do you? Where is your loyalty? Is it to man, or is it to God? Do you qualify as a disciple of Christ, by abiding in His word? Will you be numbered among the “many” that believed that they were qualified to dwell eternally with Jesus Christ (Matthew 7: 21 – 23), but find in the end that they were disqualified, or will you be numbered among the “few” (Matthew 7: 13 & 14) who found the “narrow gate” that leads to life? May God grant you the grace to hear His voice in the late hour of this day, and to find your way to the highway of Holiness (Isaiah 35: 8) that leads to our Homeland.

It is clear, from Father’s word, that “all” who say they are followers of Christ are not so. A “few” are, and “many” are not. The distinguishing mark that defines the two groups is the attitude of heart toward the Word of God. Our mouths can say a lot of things, but God looks at the heart and its attitude toward His word (1 Samuel 16: 7). When one finds himself in fellowship with those who are leavened with doubt and unbelief concerning the Word of God, they are clearly directed to separate themselves, lest they too become leavened (1 Corinthians 5: 6). I offer but a few examples, to confirm what I am saying: *“Whoever transgresses and does not abide in the doctrine of Christ does not have God. He who abides in the doctrine of Christ has both the Father and the Son.*

If anyone comes to you and does not bring this doctrine, do not receive him into your house nor greet him; for he who greets him shares in his evil deeds.” (2 John 9 – 11)

“Now I have written to you not to keep company with anyone named a brother, who is sexually immoral, or covetous, or an idolater, or a reviler, or a drunkard, or an extortioner ----- not even to eat with such a person.” (1 Corinthians 5:11)

*“Now I urge you, brethren, note those who cause divisions and offenses, contrary to the doctrine which you learned, and avoid them. 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.” (Romans 16: 17 & 18) *Emphasis Added**

“But we command you, brethren, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that you withdraw from every brother who walks disorderly and not according to the tradition which he received from us.” (2 Thessalonians 3: 6)

While “unity” is God’s perfect will for His own sons and daughters, it is only so for the truly Born-Again followers of Jesus Christ. True unity between two or more Born-Again believers is the result of a mutual love and total devotion for Jesus Christ and His word. All else, is nothing more than man’s well-intentioned practice of religion, and will eventually be destroyed by God Himself.

In closing, again I must take a moment and emphasize the importance of unity among true believers. Sadly, there is little true spiritual unity in the modern-day church. If there were such unity, the power of God, as evidenced by His word confirmed (Mark 16: 20), would be our norm rather than a rare exception. The Word of God is “living and powerful” (Hebrews 4: 12), not dead or dying; and we need to understand that God’s word reproduces after its own kind as we come into unity with God through His word, and our fellow believers. Man has no power except as he comes into unity with God, and

then it is God's power working through man (2 Corinthians 1:20). Remember, Jesus said: "Without Me, you can do nothing" (John 15: 5). Division will bring desolation, destruction and death. Unity will bring power, light and life. When as few as "two" believers enter into the unity of God they become the most powerful force on the face of the earth, allowing God to do anything that He desires to do, from destroying entire nations to raising the dead ----- calling into being, that which is not, out of that which exists not, and have it be! Listen to our Lord: *"Again I say to you that if two of you agree on earth concerning anything that they ask, it will be done for them by My Father in heaven. For where two or three are gathered together in My name, I am there in the midst of Them."*
(Matthew 18:19 &20)

Unity begins with me and God ----- with you and God. True unity is most evident within small numbers of people, not large. Division is most evident within large numbers, not small. I would rather be in agreement with our Lord, and walk with a "few" who are of a like mind and heart, than sit with "many" that have the "form of religion" worked out, but are void of power because they are not one with Christ, through His word. Life is much too short and the stakes much too high to waste as much as one hour associating with those whom Father told me to flee from (2 Timothy 3:5). How about you, dear reader ----- How about you?

I leave you for now with this thought: Jesus, only "pastored" ----- "walked with" ----- 12 ----- not 200 or 1,200. He understood the power of unity; first, between Himself and Father (John 17: 21 & 22) and then with us who believe. Whenever our Lord sent out His disciples, He sent them as follows:

"After these things the Lord appointed seventy others also, and sent them "two by two" before His face into every city and place where He Himself was about to go."
(Luke 10: 1) *Emphasis Added*

The key to the manifested power and favor of God among His own is "Unity" ----- starting with "two". "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." (1 Corinthians 1: 10)

Your brother,

©All rights reserved

Thomas

"EVERY WORD OF GOD IS PURE; HE IS A SHIELD TO THOSE WHO PUT THEIR TRUST IN HIM. DO NOT ADD TO HIS WORDS, LEST HE REBUKE YOU, AND YOU BE FOUND A LIAR." (PROVERBS 30:5 & 6)