

"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)

<http://www.oakhillministries.org> ■ 2115 Graefenburg Road ■ Lawrenceburg, KY 40342
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“A HOUSE DIVIDED!”

Part Two

“Behold, how good and how pleasant it is for” brethren “to dwell together in unity! It is like the precious oil upon the head, running down on the beard, the beard of Aaron, running down on the edge of his garments. It is like the dew of Hermon, descending upon the mountains of Zion; for there the Lord commanded the blessing – Life forevermore.” (Psalm 133)

Emphasis Added

As we have seen previously, division within the modern day church as we know it, as well as nations, marriages, partnerships, etc. are promised of God - - - desolation and destruction. Likewise, where there is “unity,” not in word only but in Truth, there is the promise of God - - - the blessings of Life forevermore. In short, where there is a lack of unity in Truth, you can expect the following: Grief, Sadness, Loneliness, Devastation, Ruin, and Barren Wasteland. Likewise, where there is unity in Truth, you can expect to enjoy the favor of God, and receive His blessing, which He will command for your benefit. Think about it my friends! On the one hand, you have the promise of a curse; on the other hand, the promise of a blessing; could it be any clearer?

**“I call heaven and earth as witnesses today against you, that I have set before you life and death, blessing and cursing; therefore choose life, that both you and your descendents may live; that you may love the Lord your God, that you may obey His voice, and that you may cling to Him, for He is your life, and the length of your days.”
(Deuteronomy 30:19-20)**

Dear reader, listen to Father’s word; it will not fail you now, nor in the future. Father tells us clearly in this matter at hand that we – you and I individually – get to choose either His word and the corresponding blessing – Life, or our, or another’s word, and the corresponding curse – death. Either way, the choice is ours. For me, I choose my Father’s word. What about you, dear reader?

As I look around today, I see a world that has mass produced the fruit of division and is now harvesting a crop of death and destruction. This includes what we call the church. Like it or not, that is the truth. From the world we should expect no less than what we see; but from the church, we should see a standard of unity that would reflect the unity of the Godhead; such unity would show the world that Jesus Christ was, in fact, sent by God Himself.

Frequently, I hear believers expressing a desire to know what God's will is in a particular matter. I personally believe that we can find Father's will expressed in His word, for all matters that pertain to life on earth. Our problem is, when we find His will expressed, if it does not suit our will, our particular flavor of religion, or it will cause us personal loss or pain – then we question the literal meaning of the Word; and we reject it as Truth. Most of us, if the truth be known, are guilty of this sin of rebellion. I am. May Father grant us the grace of repentance in this matter.

Now, concerning God's will as it relates to unity among true followers of Christ, all we need to do is to listen to our Lord as He prays; as He prayed for us, who believe in Him.

"I do not pray for these alone, but also for those who will believe in Me through their word; that they all may be one, as You Father, are in Me, and I in You; that they also may be one in Us, that the world may believe that You sent Me.

And the glory which You gave Me I have given them, that they may be one just as We are One; I in them and You in Me; that they may be made perfect in one, and that the world may know that You have sent Me, and have loved them as You have loved Me." (John 17:20-23)

Emphasis Added

Clearly, our Lord's will is that His followers walk out their time here on earth in true unity – in a state of unity that reflects the unity of the Father and the Son – and in so doing, the world would come under conviction and "know" that Jesus Christ was, in fact, sent to the earth by Almighty God Himself.

When Father's redeemed children are "one" in their love of Him, and in their desire for the Truth, as can only be found in Jesus Christ, they are indeed pleasing and well-received by their Father. Such "oneness" in love and affection for Father, His Son and each other, brings the world under conviction, for all humans desire love and affection. Love is the very essence of unity; and that love begins in me – in you – as it relates to God and to the Word. True agape love is rooted and grounded in a man's heart for his heavenly Father; all else is nothing but humanistic love. Whether found in a professing Christian or a known pagan; before God, it amounts to nothing more than flesh!

**"He who loves father or mother more than Me is not worthy of Me.
And he who loves son or daughter more than Me is not worthy of Me."
(Matthew 10:37)**

The word of God is crystal clear in this matter of division and unity. Not only does our division cause us much pain, suffering and loss of blessing, but God hates it. Where ever God sees division among His people, He sees His ancient enemy Lucifer at work as he infects the hearts of men with Pride. The end result is what we have today; we are split up and divided into thousands of sects and denominations, each believing they are pleasing to God – that they have the Truth! On one end of the extreme, we have the Catholic Church that boldly claims that theirs is the one true church and their head, the Pope, the one true spokesman for Christ. At the other end of the extreme, we have one lone man who believes that he alone walks in Truth, and as a result he breaks all fellowship with the body of Christ and withdraws into himself. In between these two extremes, both of which reek with the stench of Pride, Division and Darkness, we have any flavor of Christianity that one might desire to satisfy his or her own

affections, all of which speak of Pride, Division and Darkness. When Pride enters into a believer's heart, it enters disguised as light and righteousness (see 2 Corinthians 11:14-15). Once we are infected with Pride, a spirit of Deception soon takes over and binds us with what we believe is light, but in reality is darkness which flows from the pit.

"If therefore the light that is in you is darkness, how great is that darkness!" (Matthew 6:23b)

Oh saints be warned, our deception is great in these final hours; our religious pride is coming into full bloom. We have no excuse before the one True God of unity. We must quickly repent of our wickedness and flee from our religious idolatry. We must separate ourselves from the darkness of division.

In relation to the wholeness of God, we – you and I – know virtually nothing, "0" (see 1 Corinthians 8:2). We have lost our "first love" (see Revelation 2:4). In our spiritual blindness we have taken our eyes off our Head and stepped into the snare of the fowler (Psalm 91:3). We have become "body" (our church, fellowship, self, sect or denomination) worshippers. We have created our own religious idols, to which we bend our prideful knees every time we embrace the thought that "I am right – we are the favored of God." We continue to kiss the ring of the lord of darkness as we turn a deaf ear to the Word of God and continue to fellowship with the works of darkness; and mock God by refusing to separate ourselves from those things that are an abomination to Him. Make no mistake about it; God hates our Pride, Idolatry and Division. He will not be mocked (see Galatians 6:7).

"What agreement has the temple of God with idols? For you are the temple of the living God." As God has said, "I will dwell in them and walk among them. I will be their God, and they shall be My people." Therefore "come out from among them and be separate, says the Lord. Do not touch what is unclean, and I will receive you. I will be a Father to you, and you shall be My sons and daughters, says the Lord Almighty." (2 Corinthians 6:16–18)

"And have no fellowship with the unfruitful works of darkness, but rather expose them." (Ephesians 5:11)

Dear saints, we all, like sheep, have gone astray; wandering away from the True Shepherd (John 10:14); we have become lost and find ourselves now following the voices of Pride, Division, and Self-deception. The voice of the one True Shepherd is now seldom heard by the "many." As my brother in Christ, Les, says, "We, for the most part, are so far from the highway of holiness – 'The Way' (John 14:6) – that we no longer have any idea where we are." I agree with brother Les.

If we consider only the issue of "unity" within the modern day church, we must find ourselves separated or estranged from God's way. We may consider our "division within" acceptable and the norm for our day, but God calls it sin. Instead of reflecting the unity of Christ to a lost and dying world, we now reflect the division of the flesh to the world around us and cannot understand why they do not show more interest in having what we say we have. Why would anyone in their right mind want to move into a family that was so dysfunctional that each member closed themselves up in their own room, would not eat together, seek God together, or lovingly care for each other? Why?

Dear reader, what do you suppose our Father thinks about our current behavior? Do you suppose that His attitude toward us would be the same as it was for His people of previous generations when their behavior was as ours is today? How can we say that our God is the same yesterday, today and forever (Hebrews 13:8) and at the same time believe He will excuse our prideful rebellion; except we be spiritually blind and stone deaf to His warnings!

Please listen to our Father as He expresses His disappointment in His people. He uses a parable of a vineyard which represents us: It is written in Isaiah Ch. 5, verses 1b, 2b, 4, 5, 20 & 21.

“My well-beloved has a vineyard on a very fruitful hill.

He expected it to bring forth good grapes, but it brought forth wild grapes.

What more could have been done to My vineyard that I have not done in it? Why then, when I expected it to bring forth good grapes, did it bring forth wild grapes? And now, please let Me tell you what I will do to My vineyard: I will take away its hedge, and it shall be burned; and break down its wall, and it shall be trampled down.

Woe to those who call evil good, and good evil; who put darkness for light and light for darkness; who put bitter for sweet, and sweet for bitter!

Woe to those who are wise in their own eyes, and prudent in their own sight.”

Father also expressed Himself through the pen of His servant Jeremiah, when He said:

“For My people are foolish, they have not known Me. They are silly children, and they have no understanding. They are wise to do evil, but to do good they have no knowledge.” (Jeremiah 4:22)

Where there is an absence of Love for God that supercedes all other love, Pride enters the heart of man. Where Pride is, Division is soon to follow, along with all that Division brings, i.e.: Grief, Sadness, Loneliness, Devastation, Ruin and Barren Wasteland. That is not good news for anyone in their right mind.

On the other hand, where there is unity, we find the expression of Agape Love, Peace, Harmony, True Joy, and the God ordained blessing of Life forevermore.

True unity is the primary fruit that is found where a mutual love for Jesus Christ and His word overrides all other differences. Where unity is, there is a love for Truth and a desire to receive and walk in Truth, before physical death makes its call. In true unity, we care not where Truth takes us and we refuse to compromise Truth to preserve “mans” unity. We extend much grace to each other in our differences, realizing that we know virtually nothing; and agreeing that our first priority is seeking The Way, The Truth, The Life (John 14:6).

In True unity, we acknowledge that we are all brethren (Matthew 23:8). We call no man (spiritually speaking) father or teacher (Matthew 23:9 & 10), but rather we look to our True Father Almighty God, and our True Teacher Jesus Christ. We boldly declare as little children

that our Father alone is Truth, and any man, angel or demon who contradicts Him is a liar (Romans 3:4) and accursed of God (see Galatians 1:8). In true love, we tell the Truth as God Himself speaks through His word. We are not ashamed of our Lord's word, even when it cuts us to the quick and breaks our stubborn heart.

"For whoever is ashamed of Me and My words in this adulterous generation of him the Son of Man also will be ashamed when He comes in the glory of His Father with the holy angels." (Mark 8:38)

Dear reader, if you do not hear anything else that I have said, please hear this! **Your best friend is the one who tells you the most truth.** Our Father through His Son will always speak nothing but "Pure Truth" to us if we will only believe His word!

**"When He, the Spirit of truth, has come, He will guide you into all truth; for He will not speak on His own authority, but whatever He hears He will speak, and He will tell you things to come. He will glorify Me, for He will take of Mine and declare it to you."
(John 16:13-14)**

Truth would tell us that unless we come down off our spiritual high horse and acknowledge that we really do not know God, that few of us actually believe Him, and fewer still fear Him, unless we repent of our present behavior which is filled with religious pride, self-gratification and a failure to love our God with all of our heart and pledge to show Him that love through obedience to His word; if we continue to turn a deaf ear to His word of warning, failing to humble ourselves, I can assure you that our present condition will continue to worsen as evidenced by our increasing divorce rate, our sickness and disease, our poverty or lack of provision, our division and lack of love for each other. On the other hand, if we will take God at His word and "Do" as He says:

**"If My people who are called by My name will humble themselves, and pray and seek My face, and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin and heal their land."
(2 Chronicles 7:14)**

Our Father has always – always – responded in love and healed, delivered, restored, and just blessed His people when they humbled themselves, turned from their rebellious ways and separated themselves wholly unto Him. As a loving Father who tells us not to spare the rod on our own rebellious children (Proverbs 13:24 and 23:13-14) sparing them from hell; so He also spares us not, as He promises us His rod of correction applied in Love, to bring us Home safely.

**"For whom the Lord loves He chastens and scourges every son whom He receives. . . . But if you are without chastening, of which all have become partakers, then you are illegitimate and not sons."
(Hebrews 12:6 & 8)**

Dear saints, there is no better way than His way. There are no shortcuts, loopholes or exceptions. It is either Father's way or our way. One is the way of Unity – the other the way of division – one the way of Light – the other the way of darkness – one the way of Love – the other the way of hate, hardness of heart and unforgiveness – one is the way of Truth – the other the way of the lie – one is the way of Life – while the other is the way of death. One way is the way of the cross and promises us a great personal cost – while the other way is the way

of ease, the way of Babylon. One way takes us into a place of union with God, our Father and intimacy with our Lord Jesus Christ – the other way takes us into Lucifer’s chambers where we never, ever have hope to return to The Way, The Truth, The Life!

May God grant each of us our freedom from the deadly bondage of religious division and fill us with a measure of His Agape Love that will bring us into a state of Unity, so that the world around us will know that Jesus Christ was sent to us by our Father, and that in Truth – He alone is The Way, The Truth, and The Life!

And now, one last thought. When man’s heart becomes infected with Pride, and division within becomes a reality in his or her life, that reality will be evidenced by the following: There will be a greater love for, zeal for, commitment to and defense of their own institutional church or fellowship, leadership, works, theology or doctrine, than there is for Jesus Christ. The one so infected can say that their first love is for Christ, and they may do so with a sincere heart; but in truth, they are deceived. This is a most serious condition and demands but one thing – repentance!

“Nevertheless I have this against you, that you have left your first love. Remember therefore from where you have fallen; repent and do the first works, or else I will come to you quickly and remove your lampstand from its place – unless you repent.” (Revelation 2:4-5)

God judges each of us by our heart, not by what pew we sit on or building we assemble in. He knows who His true friends are. Dear reader, are you one of them? Are you sure?

God Bless,

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Thomas -- your Brother

"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)