

INTRODUCTION.

- A. Jesus prayed for unity as recorded in Jn. 17:20-21,23.
- B. Apostle Paul, wanted unity at Corinth (1Cor. 1:10).
- C. David knew the joys of brethren being in unity (Psa. 133:1).
- D. But the fact is, sometimes the brethren disagree!
- E. Tonight let us look at: causes, solutions, and suggestions when brethren disagree.

I. CAUSES OF DIVISION AND DISAGREEMENTS.

- A. Some scriptures are easy to understand, some are hard (2Pet. 3:16).
- B. Ignorance of God's Word can cause division (2Peter 3:16; Ac. 15:1).
- C. Feelings and emotions can cause division (Ac. 6:1).
(The heart can mislead, if thought through the mind will not).

II. WHAT TO DO WHEN YOU DISAGREE.

- A. Pray for wisdom:
 - 1. Wisdom to handle the situation correctly.
 - 2. Wisdom to understand the scriptures more fully.
James 1:5 may be applied this to every point that follows.
- B. Study the word (2Tim. 2:15).
- C. Be ready to change your mind (study with an open mind).
The example of children, they learn quickly because of little/no prejudice (Mt. 18:3).
- D. Be careful of commentaries and other books.
 - 1. These opinions and could cloud your thinking. After coming to a decision then consult them to see if you overlooked anything. If you have, then close them up and study again.
 - 2. A good concordance, and topical Bible are excellent study aids.
- E. Set down with the one you disagree and then study together (Mt. 18:15; 5:22-24).
- F. If the matter cannot be settled between the two of you, by mutual consent call for help.
 - 1. Chances are someone has already had this problem, and solved it.
 - 2. Call for the elders, deacons, preachers, or other mature Christians; note Philemon and Paul in behalf of Onesimus.
- G. Attempt to settle the matter as quickly as possible and keep it to as few people as possible (Mt. 5:25; 1Cor. 5:6).

III. OTHER SUGGESTIONS AND CONSIDERATIONS.

- A. The words of Thomas Campbell
"In doctrine unity, in opinion liberty, and in all things love."
Be able to separate between opinion on scripture and doctrine on scripture.
- B. In doctrine unity,
Understand that one of the following must be true:
 - 1. You are right and your brother is wrong, or
 - 2. You are wrong and your brother is right, or
 - 3. Both of you are wrong.See 2Peter 1:20.
- C. In opinion liberty,
Work out your own salvation (Phil. 2:12).
But don't use "opinion" as an excuse, remember 2Tim. 2:15.
- D. In all things love,

1. Keep fervent love one for another, love covers a multitude sins (1Pet. 4:8).
2. Fervent means intensely devoted--even through adversity.

CONCLUSION AND INVITATION.

- A. You are a brother or sister in Christ will probably never find anyone with whom you agree with completely.
- B. But the New Testament ideal is that of unity.
- C. Jesus promised that outside forces would never destroy the church (Mt. 16:18).
But it can be destroyed from within, see Mt. 12:25.
- D. Plan of salvation for non-Xians; erring Xians.