

Rom. 14:19
So then let us
follow after
things which
make for
peace, and
things
whereby we
may edify one
another.

THE LENEXA EDIFIER

Anna Surface 2010

John 8:32 And
ye shall
know the
truth and the
truth shall
make you
free.

July
19
2020

AM I CAUSING A SCHISM IN THE BODY?

by Jim Stauffer

"For even as the body is one and yet has many members, and all the members of the body, though they are many, are one body, so also is Christ."

(1 Cor. 12:12)

Paul follows this with a detailed explanation of what he means by members of the same body functioning in the interest of the entire body. *"For the body is not one member, but many. If the foot says, "Because I am not a hand, I am not a part of the body," it is not for this reason any the less a part of the body. And if the ear says, "Because I am not an eye, I am not a part of the body," it is not for this reason any the less a part of the body. If the whole body were an eye, where would the hearing be? If the whole were hearing, where would the sense of smell be? But now God has placed the members, each one of them, in the body, just as He desired. If they were all one member, where would the body be? But now there are many members, but one body. And the eye cannot say to the hand, "I have no need of you"; or again the head to the feet, "I have no need of you.""* **(1 Corinthians 12:14–21)**

His further explanation of the need for each member to serve the others is given in **verse 25**, *"that there should be no schism in the body; but that the members should have the same care one for another."* **(ASV)**

The concept of the church being the body of Christ **(Eph. 1:22,23)** is one of the paramount principles of the local church and its activity. Therefore Paul says we are to be of *...the same mind and same judgment.*

(1 Cor. 1:10)

Paul then tells us if we *...walk in a manner worth of the calling with which you have been called...*, we can then *...preserve the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace.* **(Eph. 4:1,3)** He explains in **verse 2** that walk will be, *with all humility and gentleness, with patience,*

showing tolerance for one another in love., Here again we see the condition of the body of Christ is dependent upon the conduct of the individuals who make up that body, its members.

Now, in addition to the instruction that teaches us concern for each other as members of the same body and the need for us to be of the same mind and judgment, we see we must have a heart in tune with the Spirit of God (see also **Rom. 8:9-11**), this is achieved when we are humble and gentle toward one another combined with patience and tolerance borne out of love. That is perfectly explained by Paul again in the following verses, *"Therefore if there is any encouragement in Christ, if there is any consolation of love, if there is any fellowship of the Spirit, if any affection and compassion, make my joy complete by being of the same mind, maintaining the same love, united in spirit, intent on one purpose. Do nothing from selfishness or empty conceit, but with humility of mind regard one another as more important than yourselves; do not merely look out for your own personal interests, but also for the interests of others."* **(Philippians 2:1–4)**

I have deliberately tried to avoid personal commentary on these passages. I merely want each of us to see them as a group that express the desire of the Savior of men who authorized the message of the Holy Spirit who gave these words to this inspired man. But it becomes difficult for me to avoid the consideration of my brethren as I determine my actions in participation of activities that involve the body of Christ my Savior.

"Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart Be acceptable in Your sight, O LORD, my rock and my Redeemer." **(Psalm 19:14)**

Majoring and Minor

Connie W. Adams

More and more we are hearing that “we need to major in the gospels and minor in the epistles.” What is that all about? What it is about is the so-called “new hermeneutic.” It places greater importance on what Jesus said and did than on what the apostles said and did. It is a part of the scheme to rid ourselves of the restraining influences of finding a direct statement, approved apostolic example or necessary inference to authorize our teaching and practice.

We have some among us who are terrorized by the ghost of tradition. Never mind that traditions are sometimes approved and other times condemned. Paul wrote, *“Brethren, join in following my example, and note those who so walk, as you have us for a pattern” (Phil. 3:17)*. He also said, *“Therefore, brethren, stand fast and hold the traditions which you were taught, whether by word or our epistle” (2 Thess. 2:15)*. The church at Thessalonica was charged to *“withdraw from every brother who walks disorderly and not according to the tradition which he received from us” (2 Thess. 3:6)*. So, all traditions are not to be rejected.

The Source of Apostolic Teaching

Those who worry about putting too much emphasis on the epistles need to be reminded of the source of the message in the epistles. Jesus promised the Holy Spirit to guide the apostles into all truth, bringing to their remembrance what Jesus had taught them, and revealing to them truth which Jesus had not expressed while with them in person. Read **John 16:7-14**. Paul said, *“These things we also speak, not in words which man’s wisdom teaches but which the Holy Spirit teaches”* and then added, *“But we have the mind of Christ” (1 Cor. 2:13,16)*.

“If anyone thinks himself to be a prophet or spiritual, let him acknowledge that the things which I write to you are the commandments of the Lord” (1 Cor. 14:37)

Now, if the apostles were guided by the Holy Spirit, had the mind of Christ, and what they wrote were the words of Christ, how say some among us that we need to minor in the epistles?

New Testament congregations which received and obeyed apostolic instruction in the epistles were following the will of Christ. That is why Jude wrote, *“But, beloved, remember ye the words which were spoken before of the apostles of our Lord Jesus Christ” (Jude 17)*. Those words were a pattern to shape our thinking and practice.

A “Better” Way?

Some of those who are weary of precept, approved

apostolic example and necessary inference, tell us that this is not all bad but they have found a “better way,” that in addition to these means of establishing divine authority, we may add the three “P’s”, principle, purpose and perception. Older brethren will recall the time when E.R. Harper was trying to find divine authority for the Herald of Truth sponsoring church arrangement and came up with “principle eternal.” He had no precept, no approved apostolic example and no necessary inference from the word of God, so he found it in “principle eternal.” But how do we know what principle to follow except in terms of what the word of God actually says? How do we know what purpose is to be served apart from divine instruction? How do we know what perception or perspective was present except from what is said in the text?

It is being argued that the only pattern for us is what we think Jesus would do. That is a subjective approach to religion. We *“walk by faith, not by sight” (2 Cor. 5:7)*. Faith rests upon solid evidence, not subjective feelings and perceptions. The truth of the matter is that Jesus taught by the use of commands and precepts. What do you make of the Great Commission if that is not so? He *“left us an example that we should follow in his steps” (1 Pet. 2:21)*. He also drew necessary conclusions (**Matt. 22:23-33**) or left it so that his hearers would do so.

There seems to be a terrible dread among some (especially some younger men) that they will do something which brethren have done before and therefore will fall into some theological rut from which they will not be able to extricate themselves. So they tinker with the order of the worship until it borders on disorder. They fear that worship will not be exciting enough. But exciting to whom? To us, or to our God? They must deliver us from boredom. But who is bored? Are we bored, or is God? Certainly worship ought to be offered from the whole heart. We ought not to go through empty rituals. But God has ordained certain acts of worship and who am I to say that he is bored when his children perform these acts in harmony with what God himself instructed us to do?

These are dangerous times. The only safe guide to see us through these times is the inerrant, eternal word of God. It is a perfect guide. Our eternal destiny is too important to entrust to the shifting sands of human opinion and subjective religion. *“If the foundations be destroyed, what can the righteous do?” (Psa. 11:3)* Let’s hear what Jesus said in the gospels but let’s not minimize what he said in the epistles through Holy Spirit-guided apostles. That is also a part of the word

that will judge us in the last day (Jn. 12:48-49).
Guardian of Truth - October 7, 1993

BIGGER BARNs

“Someone in the crowd said to Him, Teacher, tell my brother to divide the family inheritance with me. But He said to him, Man, who appointed Me a judge or arbitrator over you? Then He said to them, Beware, and be on your guard against every form of greed; for not even when one has an abundance does his life consist of his possessions. And He told them a parable, saying, the land of a rich man was very productive. And he began reasoning to himself, saying, what shall I do, since I have no place to store my crops? Then he said, this is what I will do: I will tear down my barns and build larger ones, and there I will store all my grain and my goods. And I will say to my soul, Soul, you have many goods laid up for many years to come; take your ease, eat, drink and be merry. But God said to him, you fool! This very night your soul is required of you; and now who will own what you have prepared? So is the man who stores up treasure for himself, and is not rich toward God” (Luke 12:13-21 NASV).

The judgment Jesus brought went beyond the daily, ordinary affairs of life. For example, there are greater issues to think about rather than squabbling over money and inheritances. Jesus is trying to help us understand that true living reaches beyond the accumulations of land, money, and prestige. If we are only concerned about our “share” of *whatever*, then we are headed in the wrong direction; we are straying farther from the kingdom of heaven. Since the things of this life pertain to this life, and because the things of this life perish, then our concentration needs to be on the life to come, the true life that lasts for eternity.

The things of this life do not necessarily have to present dangers to us. We can work hard, be successful, use what we have to help others. Still, we must recognize that everything comes from God. The dangers and traps come when we pursue bigger barns. Bigger barns can be distractions. The desire for more and more is a sign of covetousness. *“Covetousness is idolatry” (Colossians 3:5).* More will not satisfy. *“He who loves money will not be satisfied with money, nor he who loves abundance with its income. This too is vanity” (Ecclesiastes 5:10).* When we are growing more crops and building bigger barns, we have little time left for spiritual growth. Have we become idolaters? Scripture warns about the dangers of greed. We are living “bumper

crop” lives. We are blessed and yet, we must always be careful. One danger is that we could end up hating our brother because he got part of our inheritance.

Notice in our passage the small words “my” and “I.” “My” and “I” may lead to a good retirement; do they lead to heaven? We are rich, but what direction have our riches taken us? Ultimately, what do we really need to sustain life here on earth? Actually, very little. Jesus said that if we have some food to eat, clothes to wear, and a place to live, then we have what we need. If bigger barns come our way, let us use them to the Lord’s glory. Let’s remember, though, that we will not find safety in those bigger barns when we stand before Christ in judgment.

Randy Harshbarger

Urgent! Or Important?

Last week was a whirlwind for me. I had to get ready for a road trip to my brother’s in Pennsylvania for the Fourth. In doing so I did not get a Newspaper article ready to submit in time and so the paper re-ran an earlier article. One reader even sent an email to see if I was all right (Thanks, V!) I was perfectly fine but had committed an old and pervasive mistake: I allowed the Urgent to crowd out the Important. It was Urgent (time sensitive) to get ready to leave by a certain time, but it wasn’t nearly as Important (Life Impacting) as getting a spiritually edifying article ready. We all face decisions like this every day and usually make them without giving them the thought they deserve. Last week I just failed.

Satan is an expert at convincing us that Important decisions are not Urgent and can always be put off until another day. Do it, but wait till Tomorrow. This is the subtle lie of the Great Deceiver. Remember, he is a liar from the beginning and the father of lies, **(John 8:44)**. The Scriptures are full of warnings, both direct and otherwise, not to fall for this. Jesus said in **Matthew 16:26** *“For what will it profit a man if he gains the whole world and forfeits his soul? Or what will a man give in exchange for his soul?”* and James, Jesus’ younger brother, said in **James 4:14**, *“Yet you do not know what your life will be like tomorrow. You are just a vapor that appears for a little while and then vanishes away.”*

These verses could easily be multiplied but the point is simply this: It is Important to prepare for eternity now and it is more Urgent than you think!

Cleveland Reddinger

Psa. 1:1 Blessed is the man that walketh not in the counsel of the wicked, Nor standeth in the way of sinners, Nor sitteth in the seat of scoffers: 2 But his delight is in the law of Jehovah; And on his law doth he meditate day and night. 3 And he shall be like a tree planted by the streams of water, That bringeth forth its fruit in its season, Whose leaf also doth not wither; And whatsoever he doeth shall prosper. 4 The wicked are not so, But are like the chaff which the wind driveth away. 5 Therefore the wicked shall not stand in the judgment, Nor sinners in the congregation of the righteous. 6 For Jehovah knoweth the way of the righteous; But the way of the wicked shall perish.

HOURS OF WORSHIP

Sunday A.M. 9:30 Bible Study

Sunday A.M. 10:20 Assembled Worship

Sunday P.M. 5:00 Assembled Worship

Wednesday P.M. 7:00 Bible Study and Worship

Visitors welcome

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SUNDAY BIBLE CLASS - BOOK OF
DANIEL - BILL MILLER

WEDNESDAY BIBLE CLASS - BOOK
OF MARK - JIM STAUFFER (BOTH
CLASSES OFFERED ON ZOOM)

SUNDAY MORNING SERMON
(YOUTUBE ALSO)
THE GREATEST INFLUENCE



What Must I Do To Be Saved?

Hear the gospel - Romans 10:17

Believe in Jesus Christ - Hebrews 11:6

Repent of sins - Acts 17:30

Confess Christ as Lord - Romans 10:9,10

Be Baptized for remission of sins - Acts 2:38

Be Faithful unto death - Revelation 2:10