

# CHRISTIAN'S OBLIGATION IN INTEREST OF UNITY IN THE LORD'S CHURCH

1Cor.1:10-13

## INTRODUCTION:

- A. In the midst of any situation, crises or not, there are certain considerations which individual Christian are under obligation to keep in mind and discharge in the interest of preserving unity
- B. It is some of these obligations toward unity that we propose to study in this lesson, that we may better realize our duty and strive to discharge it fully.

## DISCUSSION:

### I. CHRISTIANS HAVE A COMMON FAITH AND SALVATION; BUT THE PROBLEM OF UNITY FINDS ITS GREATEST AND MOST DIRECT OBLIGATION IN THE FELLOWSHIP OF THE LOCAL CHURCH.

- A. Paul's instructions to Corinth 1Cor.1:10-13
  - 1. Be no division among you, speak the same thing
  - 2. Same mind and same judgment
  - 3. Division is carnal 1Cor.3:3
  - 4. Have the same care one for another 1Cor.12:25,26
- B. Paul's instructions to the Ephesians Eph.4:1-3
  - 1. Forbear one another in love
  - 2. Endeavor to keep unity of the Spirit
- C. Paul's instructions to the Philippians Phil.2:1-3
  - 1. Same mind, one accord, one mind
  - 2. Esteem others better than themselves

### II. THIS UNITY DEMANDED OF CHRISTIANS IS AN INDIVIDUAL OBLIGATION

- A. Factionalism (asv) Heresies (kjb) is walking after the flesh and is condemned Gal.5:19,20
- B. Jealousy and faction belong to the wisdom that is earthly Jam.3:13-18
- C. Acceptable worship is nullified by division 1Cor.11:17,18

### III. PEACE AND UNITY CANNOT BE BOUGHT AT THE EXPENSE OF TRUTH AND RIGHTEOUSNESS

- A. Jesus came not to bring peace but sword Matt.10:34-38
- B. Unity of the Spirit pleases God Eph.4:1-7
- C. Those who cause division "contrary to the doctrine of Christ" are to be refused Rom.16:17,18

### IV. ASIDE FROM TRUTH AND RIGHTEOUSNESS AND THE VIOLATION OF ONE'S OWN CONSCIENCE, THE INDIVIDUAL CHRISTIAN SHOULD BE WILLING TO FORGO EVERY PERSONAL CONSIDERATION FOR THE SAKE OF PEACE AND UNITY IN THE CHURCH.

- A. In personal opinion & conscience there should always be liberality toward each other Rom.14:1-13

- B. In matters of personal liberty 1Cor.8:4-13
- C. A Christian should sacrifice his own judgment and pride in all things not essential to the will of Christ for the sake of harmony and peace Rom.15:1,2

### V. HOW TO AVOID DIVISION!

- A. By uncorrupted doctrine and sound speech Tit.2:1
- B. By having elders who hold fast the faithful word and who are able to exhort and convince the gainsayer Tit.1:9
- C. By leaving off our own speculation, judgments, and opinions, shunning foolish questions, and refusing factious men Tit.3:9,10
- D. By handling the word of God aright, refusing to strive about words to no profit, and shunning profane babblings 2Tim.2:14-16
- E. By exercising love and hospitality toward each other, yet insisting on speaking as the oracles of God 1Pet.4:7-11

## CONCLUSION:

- A. When problems arise in the Church every Christian must be sure that their attitude is right toward God, truth, and other brethren
- B. No Christian has the right to introduce into the Church of Christ any practice in the realm of judgment, opinion, or expediency that creates division and dissension.
- C. No Christian has the right to force his opinion or personal liberty upon another in the violation of his conscience as a condition of Christian fellowship
- D. Each person must have the same attitude of give and take concerning matters of judgment; but on matters of doctrine we must all stand on the teaching of the Word of God.