

Is Christ Divided?

Linville Dunaway, Corinth Christian Church

Paul asked this of the church at Corinth in the first chapter of **1 Corinthians**. They were splintered into various groups, each claiming to be the "Right Group" serving God. Thinking that the others were not as righteous as themselves they felt superior. Even though some claimed to be followers of Paul he told them to follow the Lord and not some man. Here we are centuries later and much of the church still hasn't learned the lesson.

I hear that there are hundreds of denominations in our world today. I don't know an exact number, but anything more than one is too many. Jesus built one church, not two, and certainly not hundreds. So where did these many different denominations come from? I don't think that anyone could seriously say that they came from God. As he said in **1 Corinthians 14:33**, "For God is not the author of confusion, but of peace, as in all churches of the saints." While one church, or preacher says one thing and another says something else that is confusion.

Ephesians 4 stresses that the church should have unity. Can any worthwhile purpose be done without unity? This is true in the world and especially true in the church. **1 Corinthians 14:8**, "For if the trumpet give an uncertain sound, who shall prepare himself to the battle?"

I heard the story of two different missionaries who went to a primitive tribe in Africa. Each preached his church's doctrine - the one contradicting the other. The Chief of the tribe called them together and said, "You are telling two different stories so one of you is wrong. Go home figure it out, then come back and talk to us." The chief might have been uneducated but he was a smart man.

The devil loves confusion and is happy when God's people spend more time competing against each other than working against him. Looking at our world today the devil is working hard. His followers are not divided and are working against the things of God. They even have workers in some churches teaching that sin is acceptable to God and that we don't have to change our lives. I see these ads on TV that say that you can take a pill and lose weight without changing the way you live and eat. My doctor said, "If there was such a pill, I would

be giving them out. You have to change your habits if you want to be healthier." That is true physically and is even more so spiritually.

Folks, it is not that hard to understand and to know what to do. First read your bible for yourself. Don't get all your spiritual food in a short sermon on Sunday morning. That is not enough. Think about it this way. If you ate one small meal one day a week would you be strong and healthy?

Then when you read what God has said accept it for the truth that it is. Don't say, "well, this is what grandpa believed, or my preacher says." Follow what God says, after all he is The Authority on the subject. Jesus said in **Luke 6:46**, "And why call ye me, Lord, Lord, and do not the things which I say?" If Jesus asked you that question what could you say? If you teach that sin is alright - what could you say? If you teach that you don't have to attend church and support the Lord's work - what could you say? If you mock baptism, the Lord's Supper, and other commands of the Lord - what could you say?

No, Jesus is not divided and is not the author of confusion. He said it very plainly, "I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me." **John 14:6**.

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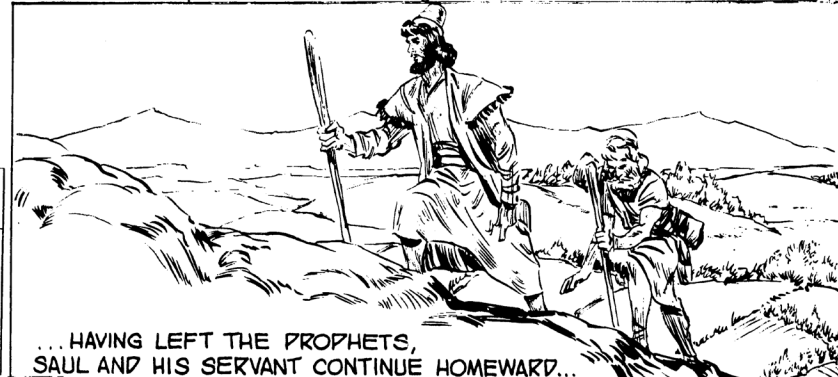
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