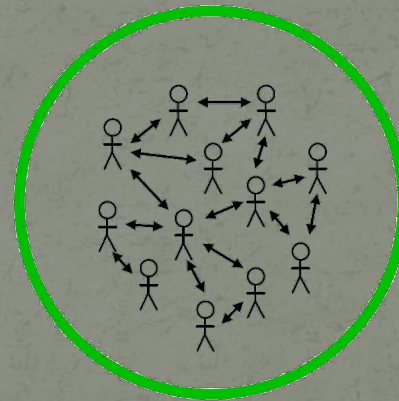
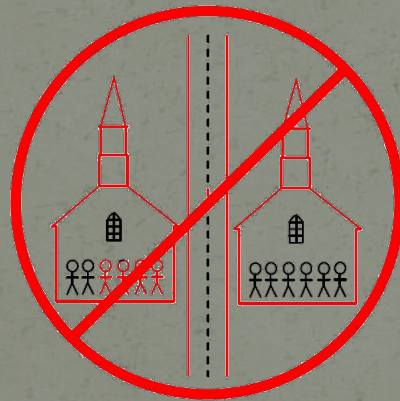


Is Christ Divided?

Sectarianism is okay? Not!



In the beginning, there were just three groups:

- 1) those recognizing the prophecies were fulfilled by Jesus as the promised Messiah
- 2) the blind Israelites who could not see Him
- 3) The nations which knew neither.

The blind ones called the seeing ones a 'sect':

“And I confess this to thee, that, according to the way that they call a sect, so serve I the God of the fathers, believing all things that in the law and the prophets have been written,”

Act 24:14

It is clear however that almost immediately, the truth of the gospel was being perverted by those inclined to follow after ear ticklers drawing off disciples after themselves.

Paul did battle continuously against them by name, and warned that after his death this trend would increase.

“Take heed, therefore, to yourselves, and to all the flock, among which the Holy Spirit made you overseers, to feed the assembly of God that He acquired through His own blood, for I have known this, that there shall enter in, after my departing, grievous wolves unto you, not sparing the flock, and **of your own selves there shall arise men, speaking perverse things, to draw away the disciples after them.** 'Therefore, watch, remembering that three years, night and day, I did not cease with tears warning each one;’

Act 20:28-31

Paul's warning has been fulfilled, and today we live in a world with a history and traditions which justify continuing on in their errors.

There is no excuse for this situation. It calls for repentance.

Failing repentance, there will be and already is the judgment we are now seeing.

Sectarianism is represented by several words, usually to whitewash:

Denomination
Non-Denomination
Schism
Sect
Heresy

These divisions come now in many ways under many names.

Some are geographical; some are doctrinal; some are simply proprietary.

The Temple of the Holy Spirit is treated like a market of which a greater share is to be exploited by any means possible.

There are now tens of thousands of 'divisions' or 'denominations', for example:

Baptist
Church of Christ
Assembly of God
Presbyterian
Lutheran
Calvinist
Etc.

Yet every one of these divisions is an extra-biblical distinction in direct defiance of the commands of the Holy Spirit recorded multiple times in the scriptures.

Continuing in these distinctions is not merely 'immature'...it is rebellion.

The scriptures speak for themselves:

“And I call upon you, brethren, through the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that **the same thing** ye may all say, and **there may not be divisions** among you, and ye may be perfected in the **same mind**, and in the **same judgment**, for it was signified to me concerning you, my brethren, by those of Chloe, that contentions are among you...”

1Co 1:10-11

“Divisions:”

G4978

σχίσμα

schisma

skhis'-mah

From G4977; a split or gap (“schism”), literally or figuratively: - division, rent, schism.

“and I say this, that each one of you saith, 'I, indeed, am of Paul' —'and I of Apollos,' —'and I of Cephas,' —'and I of Christ.' **Hath the Christ been divided?** was Paul crucified for you? or to the name of Paul were ye baptized;”

1Co 1:12-13

Yet you say:

“I follow Calvin.”

“I follow Luther.”

“I follow Rome.”

“I follow Henry.”

“I follow Darby.”

But if you follow these, you do not follow Christ.

“And I, brethren, was not able to speak to you as to spiritual, but **as to fleshly**—as to babes in Christ; with milk I fed you, and not with meat, for ye were not yet able, but not even yet are ye now able, for **yet ye are fleshly**, for where there is among you envying, and **strife**, and **divisions**, **are ye not fleshly**, and in the manner of men do walk? for when one may say, 'I, indeed, am of Paul;' and another, 'I—of Apollos;' **are ye not fleshly?**”

1Co 3:1-4

Divisions:

G1370

διχοστασία

dichostasia

dee-khos-tas-ee'-ah

From a derivative of G1364 and G4714; disunion, that is, (figuratively) dissension: - division, sedition.

“And this declaring, I give no praise, because not for the better, but for the worse ye come together; for first, indeed, ye coming together in an assembly, I hear of **divisions** being among you, and partly I believe it, for it behoveth **sects** also to be among you, that those approved may become manifest among you; ye, then, coming together at the same place—it is not to eat the Lord's supper;”

1Co 11:17-20

Sect:

G139

αἵρεσις

hairesis

hah'ee-res-is

From G138; properly a choice, that is, (specifically) a party or (abstractly) disunion. (“heresy” is the Greek word itself.): - heresy [which is the Greek word itself], sect.

“Call upon you, then, do I—the prisoner of the Lord—to walk worthily of the calling with which ye were called, with all lowliness and meekness, with long-suffering, forbearing one another in love, **being diligent to keep the unity of the Spirit** in the bond of the peace; **one** body and **one** Spirit, according as also ye were called in **one** hope of your calling; **one** Lord, **one** faith, **one** baptism, **one** God and Father of all, who is over all, and through all, and in you all, and **to each one of you was given the grace**, according to the measure of the gift of Christ,”

Eph 4:1-7

Diligence in keeping the unity of the Spirit is now out of the question: you seek rather to maintain your proprietary distinctions as marketing aids!

“And I call upon you, brethren, to mark those who the divisions and the stumbling-blocks, contrary to the teaching that ye did learn, are causing, and turn ye away from them; for such our Lord Jesus Christ do not serve, but their own belly; and through the good word and fair speech they deceive the hearts of the harmless,”

Rom 16:17-18

“And there did come also false prophets among the people, as also among you there shall be false teachers, who shall bring in besides destructive sects, and the Master who bought them denying, bringing to themselves quick destruction, and many shall follow out their destructive ways, because of whom the way of the truth shall be evil spoken of, and in covetousness, with moulded words, of you they shall make merchandise, whose judgment of old is not idle, and their destruction doth not slumber.”

2Pe 2:1-3

This prophecy is well and truly fulfilled, as all the world mocks at the division among those claiming 'absolute truth' and 'love', yet can't figure out how to lose their individual identities and assume Jesus alone as Lord.

Nor is this a small matter: the scriptures are clear that continuance in these divisions precludes entrance to the kingdom:

“And manifest also are the works of the flesh, which are: Adultery, whoredom, uncleanness, lasciviousness, idolatry, witchcraft, hatred, strifes, emulations, wraths, rivalries, dissensions, sects, envyings, murders, drunkennesses, revellings, and such like, of which I tell you before, as I also said before, that those doing such things the reign of God shall not inherit.”

Gal 5:19-21

It is high time to heed Paul's admonishment to the
Philippians:

“Only worthily of the good news of the Christ conduct ye yourselves, that, whether having come and seen you, whether being absent I may hear of the things concerning you, that **ye stand fast in one spirit, with one soul, striving together** for the faith of the good news, and not terrified in anything by those opposing, which to them indeed is a token of destruction, and to you of salvation, and that from God;”

Php 1:27-28

The hour is late, and it is time to return to the beginning, when being identified as a “Christian” was enough for all know to that we are disciples of JESUS CHRIST ALONE.