

HOW TO KEEP TROUBLE OUT OF THE CHURCH

Int.

1. Aim: To show what we all must do to prevent trouble in the church.
2. 1 Cor. 1:10-17
 - a. Church at Corinth -
 - i. Established by Paul on the second missionary journey -
 - ii. Paul came to Ephesus on the third journey
 - iii. While in Ephesus Paul learned of many problems in the church in Corinth.
 - b. Paul wrote a letter to help solve these problems
 - c. In 1 Corinthians he teaches them how to:
 - i. Solve the problems they had
 - ii. Keep the problems from arising
 - iii. Keep problems from recurring
3. Church problems are a big problem
 - a. There have always been church problems
 - b. And they always do a lot of harm and damage
 - c. "Division in a church is caused by having two visions, leading in opposite directions."
--Kent Crockett
 - d. The best time to deal with problems is before you have them.
4. So let us consider what we can do to keep trouble out of the church.

Discussion

I. TEACHING OF 1 COR 1:10

- A. "Now I plead with you, brethren, by the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that you all speak the same thing, and that there be no divisions among you, but that you be perfectly joined together in the same mind and in the same judgment."

1. Plead - beseech in KJV

- a. A sincere expression of one's desire, with the hope that those addressed will comply with the desire expressed
- b. It is from Paul an inspired apostle
- c. It is through the name of the Lord Jesus Christ
- d. Parakaleo = to call to one's aid, desire

2. The purpose of this pleading

- a. That ye all speak the same thing - That there be no divisions among you
- b. That ye be perfectly joined together in the same mind and in the same judgment

3. These instructions involve the following:

- a. Get all the facts - - - which will cause you to
- b. Have the same understanding - - which will cause you to
- c. Form the same judgment - - which will enable you to
- d. Speak the Same thing - - and consequently to
- e. Be United

4. Troubles and problems arise when people fail to get all the information on the subject

B. In this verse Paul basically is saying:

1. Think the same thing
2. Speak the same thing, and therefore
3. Be the same thing.

C. "Now I plead with you, brethren, by the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that you all speak the same thing, and that there be no divisions among you, but that you be perfectly joined together in the same mind and in the same judgment." 1 Cor.1:10

II. WHAT CAN THE PREACHER DO TO KEEP TROUBLE OUT OF THE CHURCH ?

A. He must be very careful of his life and teaching

1. 1 Tim. 4:16 "Take heed unto thyself, and unto the doctrine; continue in them: for in doing this thou shalt both save thyself, and them that hear thee"
 - a. Thyself = he must be a good example in his living
 - b. Doctrine = be sure to teach the truth
2. Rom. 2:21 "Thou therefore which teachest another, teachest thou not thyself? thou that preachest a man should not steal, dost thou steal?" - He must practice what he preaches - be genuine - sincere

B. He must warn against error

1. Matt. 7:15 "Beware of false prophets, which come to you in sheep's clothing, but inwardly they are ravening wolves."
2. Acts 20:29-31 - Paul warned the elders at Ephesus of false teachers

- C. The preacher must stand firmly for the truth
 - 1. John 8:32
 - 2. John 17:17 "Sanctify them through thy truth: thy word is truth"

- D. He must encourage others
 - 1. II Tim. 4:2 "Preach the word; be instant in season, out of season; reprove, rebuke, exhort with all longsuffering and doctrine."
 - 2. Exhort = Parakaleo = to call to one's aid, desire - same word for beseech

III. WHAT CAN THE ELDERS DO TO KEEP TROUBLE OUT OF THE CHURCH ?

- A. They must be careful of their own lives - "blameless" 1 Tim. 3:2
- B. They must "oversee" the church - 1 Pet. 5:2
- C. They must "lead" - be in front and show others how to live
- D. They must watch as shepherds
 - 1. Acts 20:31
 - 2. Ezek 33:7-9 - warn the wicked to turn from their way
 - 3. Heb. 13:17 "...for they watch for your souls,..."
- E. They must maintain an effective work program which involves the interest, efforts, and prayers of every member - try to get all involved in the work
- F. They must try to prevent problems
- G. They must deal with troubles and with trouble-makers when they first appear.
- H. These things that the elders do will help keep trouble out of the church.

IV. WHAT CAN THE DEACONS DO TO KEEP TROUBLE OUT OF THE CHURCH ?

- A. Careful of their lives - 1 Tim. 3:10 "blameless"
- B. Willing Servants - Be involved in the work of the church to the best of his ability
- C. Work with the elders - Phil. 1:1
- D. Work with the members

V. WHAT CAN THE MEMBERS DO TO KEEP TROUBLE OUT OF THE CHURCH ?

- A. They must have the proper attitude toward the elders and the preacher
 - 1. 1 Tim. 5:17-20
 - 2. Heb. 13:17 they watch for your souls - That they may do it with joy
- B. They must work diligently
 - 1. Jas. 1:23-25 1 Cor. 15:58
 - 2. Be doers and not only hearers only - get involved - do your best
- C. They must work together
 - 1. Ps. 133:1 "Behold, how good and how pleasant it is for brethren to dwell together in unity!"
 - a. It is both good and pleasant for us
 - b. Unity is pleasant just as precious oil or perfume
 - 2. Eph. 4:1-6
 - 3. Be willing to correct our mistakes and ask for forgiveness
 - a. Matt. 6:14-15
 - b. Eph. 4:31-32

Conclusion

1. We must be concerned about keeping trouble out of the church
2. Let all of us work to maintain the unity of the spirit in the bond of peace. "Endeavouring to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace." Eph. 4:3 ASV "giving diligence to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace."
3. This includes the preacher, the elders, the deacons and every member working together to serve God.
4. How to spell Unity. "Unity means U in I and I in U." --Fred Price
5. "Now I plead with you, brethren, by the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that you all speak the same thing, and that there be no divisions among you, but that you be perfectly joined together in the same mind and in the same judgment." 1 Cor. 1:10

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