

Jesus – Cause of Division

Isn't it contradictory that Jesus who prayed for unity of His followers also said that He would bring division?

Jesus Prayed For The Unity of His Disciples

Joh 17:20 "I do not ask on behalf of these alone, but for those also who believe in Me through their word;

Joh 17:21 that they may all be one; even as You, Father, are in Me and I in You, that they also may be in Us, so that the world may believe that You sent Me.

2

Jesus Said He Would Bring Divisions

Luk 12:51 "Do you suppose that I came to grant peace on earth? I tell you, no, but rather division;

Luk 12:52 for from now on five *members* in one household will be divided, three against two and two against three.

3

Jesus Said He Would Bring Divisions

Luk 12:53 "They will be divided, father against son and son against father, mother against daughter and daughter against mother, mother-in-law against daughter-in-law and daughter-in-law against mother-in-law."

4

Jesus Said He Would Bring Divisions

Mat 10:34 "Do not think that I came to bring peace on the earth; I did not come to bring peace, but a sword.

Mat 10:35 "For I came to SET A MAN AGAINST HIS FATHER, AND A DAUGHTER AGAINST HER MOTHER, AND A DAUGHTER-IN-LAW AGAINST HER MOTHER-IN-LAW;

Mat 10:36 and A MAN'S ENEMIES WILL BE THE MEMBERS OF HIS HOUSEHOLD.⁵

Jesus Said He Would Bring Divisions

Mat 10:37 "He who loves father or mother more than Me is not worthy of Me; and he who loves son or daughter more than Me is not worthy of Me.

Mat 10:38 "And he who does not take his cross and follow after Me is not worthy of Me.

Mat 10:39 "He who has found his life will lose it, and he who has lost his life for My sake will find it.

6

Introduction

- Jesus prayed for unity but said He would bring division
- But, how could this be? What is the nature of this division?
- Today many portray Jesus as one who unified all no matter what their beliefs were
- If true, how could Jesus bring division to any group of people?

7

Introduction

- Many in churches of Christ have adopted the view that a local church must be kept together at any cost no matter how much members differ in belief and practice
- To truly understand what type of unity Jesus desires, we must also understand what type of division that he would bring
- This can be seen in the nature of the gospel teaching and in how people respond to it

8

Jesus – Cause of Division

Unity caused by the gospel
Division caused by the gospel
Division is necessary

9

Unity Caused By The Gospel

- Jesus in the good shepherd parable portrayed the “oneness” of the truth to be followed
- Unity is based on proclaiming the New Testament teaching, the gospel, and applying it in our lives
- Included in the gospel is all truth necessary for us to be pleasing to the Lord
- This truth, His Word, is not contradictory containing conflicting teachings

10

Unity Caused By The Gospel

Joh 10:9 "I am the door; if anyone enters through Me, he will be saved, and will go in and out and find pasture.

Joh 10:11 "I am the good shepherd; the good shepherd lays down His life for the sheep.

Joh 10:16 "I have other sheep, which are not of this fold; I must bring them also, and they will hear My voice; and they will become one flock *with* one shepherd.

11

Unity Caused By The Gospel

Act 2:41 So then, those who had received his word were baptized; and that day there were added about three thousand souls.

Act 2:42 They were continually devoting themselves to the apostles' teaching and to fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer.

12

Unity Caused By The Gospel

Act 2:46 Day by day continuing with one mind in the temple, and breaking bread from house to house, they were taking their meals together with gladness and sincerity of heart,

Act 2:47 praising God and having favor with all the people. And the Lord was adding to their number day by day those who were being saved.

13

Unity Caused By The Gospel

Eph 4:4 *There is* one body and one Spirit, just as also you were called in one hope of your calling;

Eph 4:5 one Lord, one faith, one baptism,

Eph 4:6 one God and Father of all who is over all and through all and in all.

14

Division Caused By The Gospel

- The same gospel teaching, the New Testament, also brings division by revealing what is sinful
- The truth then is also exclusive in nature as well as inclusive
- Jesus caused divisions between those who loved the truth and those who hated it

15

Division Caused By The Gospel

- He did not try to make a way for all to get along despite their differences in belief and practice
- Those who hate the truth will be divided from those who love it and seek to proclaim and defend it against error
- Truth must never have partnership with those who teach error

16

Division Caused By The Gospel

Joh 10:1 "Truly, truly, I say to you, he who does not enter by the door into the fold of the sheep, but climbs up some other way, he is a thief and a robber.

Joh 10:5 "A stranger they simply will not follow, but will flee from him, because they do not know the voice of strangers."

Joh 10:8 "All who came before Me are thieves and robbers, but the sheep did not hear them.

17

Division Caused By The Gospel

Joh 10:17 "For this reason the Father loves Me, because I lay down My life so that I may take it again.

Joh 10:18 "No one has taken it away from Me, but I lay it down on My own initiative. I have authority to lay it down, and I have authority to take it up again. This commandment I received from My Father."

18

Division Caused By The Gospel

Joh 10:19 A division occurred again among the Jews because of these words.

Joh 10:20 Many of them were saying, "He has a demon and is insane. Why do you listen to Him?"

Joh 10:21 Others were saying, "These are not the sayings of one demon-possessed. A demon cannot open the eyes of the blind, can he?"

19

Division Caused By The Gospel

Joh 7:40 *Some* of the people therefore, when they heard these words, were saying, "This certainly is the Prophet."

Joh 7:41 Others were saying, "This is the Christ." Still others were saying, "Surely the Christ is not going to come from Galilee, is He?"

20

Division Caused By The Gospel

Joh 7:42 "Has not the Scripture said that the Christ comes from the descendants of David, and from Bethlehem, the village where David was?"

Joh 7:43 So a division occurred in the crowd because of Him.

21

Division Caused By The Gospel

Jud 1:3 Beloved, while I was making every effort to write you about our common salvation, I felt the necessity to write to you appealing that you contend earnestly for the faith which was once for all handed down to the saints.

Eph 5:11 Do not participate in the unfruitful deeds of darkness, but instead even expose them;

22

Division Caused By The Gospel

2Jn 1:9 Anyone who goes too far and does not abide in the teaching of Christ, does not have God; the one who abides in the teaching, he has both the Father and the Son.

2Jn 1:10 If anyone comes to you and does not bring this teaching, do not receive him into *your* house, and do not give him a greeting;

23

Division Caused By The Gospel

2Jn 1:11 for the one who gives him a greeting participates in his evil deeds.

24

Division Is Necessary

- No matter how much we may want to deny it, division is necessary to separate those who will not follow the truth from those who do
- Divisions are not caused by those who obey the truth and defend it but by those who disobey and teach others to do the same
- Keeping local churches together at any cost denies necessity of division

25

Division Is Necessary

1Co 11:18 For, in the first place, when you come together as a church, I hear that divisions exist among you; and in part I believe it.

1Co 11:19 For there must also be factions among you, so that those who are approved may become evident among you

26

Division Is Necessary

Rom 16:17 Now I urge you, brethren, keep your eye on those who cause dissensions and hindrances contrary to the teaching which you learned, and turn away from them.

Rom 16:18 For such men are slaves, not of our Lord Christ but of their own appetites; and by their smooth and flattering speech they deceive the hearts of the unsuspecting.

27

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28