

Is God Divided?

How **important** is UNITY within the church?

It is important enough to <u>plead</u>, <u>persuade</u>, and <u>pray</u>.

(I Cor. 1)

It is NOT important enough to ignore **error**, refusing to **challenge** heresy. (1 Cor. 3)

God does not value unity above **TRUTH**.

"For we cannot do anything against the truth, but only for the truth."

(II Cor. 13:8)

It is NOT important enough to ignore immoral/evil behavior, seeking to avoid confrontations or discipline.

God dos not value unity above RIGHTEOUSNESS

"But you... pursue righteousness, godliness, faith, love, endurance, gentleness."

(I Tim 6:11)

The desire for unity must cause us to tolerate differences in <u>method</u>, but NOT cause us to tolerate a different <u>message</u>.

Some "churches" are irrelevant to God's work because they conform to the ungodly culture and do not accept the authority of Biblical doctrine.

The time will come when men will not put up with sound doctrine. Instead, to suit their own desires, they will gather around them teachers to say what their itching ears want to hear. They will turn their ears away from the truth and turn aside to myths.

(II Tim. 4:3-4)

I know that you will stand firm in ONE SPIRIT, contending as ONE MAN for the <u>faith</u> <u>of the gospel</u> without being frightened in any way by those who oppose you.

(Phil. 1:27)

The <u>differences</u> we feel are less important than the <u>dangers</u> we face.