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Divide Pt 1 – Christ divides believers from unbelievers

This is a new study of the word “divide”. The catalyst for this study is the requirement to study– “rightly dividing” the word of truth. Before we get to that, let us establish three points– (i) God divides, (ii) there was division among the people because of Jesus, and (3) a house divided against itself cannot stand.

More detail from the scriptures on our three points –

1. God divides

a) God divided the light from the darkness– Gen.1: 4

b) The Lord divides the flames– Ps.29:7–.

c) God divides the Spirit to every man severally as He will– 1 Cor 12:11

d) The word of God– divides asunder– soul and spirit– Heb.4: 12.

2. There was a division among the people because of Jesus

[16] Therefore said some of the Pharisees, This man is not of God, because he keepeth not the sabbath day. Others said, How can a man that is a sinner do such miracles? And there was a division among them.

[19] There was a division therefore again among the Jews... (Jn.9: 16 & 19)

3. A house divided against itself shall not stand

“And Jesus knew their thoughts, and said unto them, Every kingdom divided against itself is brought to desolation; and every city or house divided against itself shall not stand” (Matt.12: 25). See also Mk.3:24, 25, and Lk 11:17.

Illustration

When we preach on the street– the gospel of Christ–crucified we divide those who walk past. Before the preacher opens his mouth, there is quiet, there is peace in the street. Then the preacher says – there is only one way to know God– through Jesus Christ. The Muslim says God has no Son. The Hindi says there are 330 million gods. When Paul perceived his audience was made up of Sadducees and Pharisees he preached the hope of the resurrection which brought dissension between them– Acts 23:6 & 7.

Questions of the scriptures

(i) What is the solution to division between brethren, (ii) if there are weak and strong members in the body of Christ, what has the Lord done to facilitate no division?

Answers from the scriptures

i) The solution to division in the body of Christ– speak the same thing

“Now I beseech you, brethren, by the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that ye all speak the same thing, and [that] there be no divisions among you; but [that] ye be perfectly joined together in the same mind and in the same judgment” (1 Cor.1: 10).

l) God tempered the body– giving abundant honour to that which lacked that there be no schism in the body– but that we have the same care one for another

[24] For our comely parts have no need: but God hath tempered the body together, having given more abundant honour to that [part] which lacked:

[25] That there should be no schism in the body; but [that] the members should have the same care one for another. (1Cor.12: 24, 25).

Be not purposed to bring division among your brethren, but speak the same thing– the truth in love.

Rather be purposed to divide– using wisdom– preach Christ. Don’t change the gospel message to be more palatable to your audience. Allow the gospel to divide.