



Hebron Herald

Published by the Hebron Lane Church of Christ
Shepherdsville, KY

Volume 31 Number 12

December 2007

Fourth, unity in “all points” is “improbable and impractical” then why did the Holy Spirit command it through Paul? “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). “heretic” says Paul had it all wrong; and by implication and association, so did the Holy Spirit and Jesus and the Father. He is blaspheming God.

“heretic” said, “The Scriptural and practical solution is for us to quit judging others in Christ who hold differing views from ours and to accept them as brothers equal before the Lord.” Like “heretic” did with his article? He has done nothing but judge and condemn others who judge and condemn. He is a hypocrite (Matt. 7:1-6). Further, where is the Scripture of his supposed “Scriptural and practical solution”? He does not have it; and will not. Jesus tells us to judge others (Matt. 7:15-20). If we do not make a judgment about others, how can we identify “deceitful workers” (2 Cor. 11:13-15)? How can we recognize the “unfruitful works of darkness” and avoid or break fellowship with them (Eph. 5:11)? We are commanded to test, try, and judge others (1 Jn. 4:1-6; Gal. 1:6-9; 5:1-12).

False Teaching Blasphemes God

Editor’s Note: The following is a excerpt from a correspondence with a brother who came across some false teaching on the Internet. The word “heretic” has replaced the name of the false teacher. (sfd)

“heretic” said, “The Scriptures do not even speak of ‘members of the church.’” That exact phrase is not in the Bible. However, it definitely speaks of members of the church. There are “many members in one body” and “being many, are one body in Christ, and individually members of one another” (Rom. 12:4, 5). “For as the body is one and has many members, but all the members of that one body, being many, are one body, so also is Christ” (1 Cor. 12:12; cf. 12:20, 22, 23, 25, 26, 27). We are “members of the household of God” which is the “church of the living God” (Eph. 2:19; 1 Tim. 3:15). In perhaps the greatest chapter about the church, Paul said, “we are members of His body, of His flesh and of His bones” (Eph. 5:30). This shows the utter ignorance, either willful or otherwise, of “heretic”.

“heretic” said when he obeyed the gospel he was added “to his one church which happened to use only one cup in the communion and deplore Sunday School and women teachers.” In his next paragraph he said, “Still others obeyed the same gospel and were added by the same Lord to the same church which happened to use instrumental accompaniment to singing.” These two churches cannot be the same and the Lord did not add men to them. Again, he is confusing the universal body of the redeemed—all the saved on earth—with a local congregation. If they believe and practice different doctrines then they cannot be the same church. Just as the Jews, Muslims, and Christians cannot be the same religion though they all

Non-Profit Org.
U.S. Postage Paid
Permit #10
Shepherdsville, KY

Church of Christ
3221 E. Hebron Ln.
Shepherdsville, KY
40165-8959

Assemblies

Sunday Morning 9:00 a.m.
Sunday Evening 5:00 p.m.
Wednesday 7:30 p.m.

Elders

Tom Brown
Laymon Byers
John Smith

Evangelists

Ron Halbrook
halbrook@insightbb.com

Steven Deaton
sfdeaton@insightbb.com

www.HebronLaneChurch.com

claim to worship the same God. Their different convictions, worship, teachings, and practices distinguish them from one another. If it is true that these differences do not make them different churches, then there are no boundaries; there are no standards of truth. Hence, there is no false religion in Jesus' name and every belief and practice is acceptable. If not, why not? Think about it. It would not just be limited to "instrumental accompaniment to singing." It would have to include the necessity of baptism. One group says it is necessary to be baptized, another says it is not. "heretic"'s doctrine leads to this conclusion.

"heretic" said, "Even though it is still true that the Lord adds us to his church when he saves us, he does not add us to a Church of Christ. We join our sectarian congregations which we designate as the Church of Christ." To what then, are we added if it is not a "Church of Christ"? If he means the Lord does not add us to the local congregation, that is true. We must join a local church by mutual consent (Acts 9:26-28). However, the Lord DOES add us to His church—that is the Church of Christ. We did not come up with congregations being called "church of Christ." The Holy Spirit did. "The churches of Christ salute you" (Rom. 16:16). Again, we have an example of what I believe willful ignorance or outright deceit. "heretic" knows Romans 16:16 is in the Bible. Yet, he wants to run away from it. Further, can a church exist and not be "sectarian." "heretic" does not believe so. He sees every church as "sectarian." Whose fault is this? It can only be God's fault.

"heretic" said, "Any group that refuses to recognize and accept others whom the Lord added to his church, as we have practiced in creating our divisions, is a sect." Again, utterly and totally false! Was John a member of a sect because he refused to recognize certain men (2 Jn. 9-11)? These were baptized believers; they were not men practicing Judaism or idolatrous pagans. Was Paul in a sect? He refused "to recognize men that the Lord added to his church." When dealing with Christians who were trying to bind circumcision he said, "Beware of dogs, beware of evil workers, beware of the mutilation! For we are the circumcision, who worship God in the Spirit, rejoice in Christ Jesus, and have no confidence in the flesh" (Phil. 3:2, 3). Did you get that language—"WE are the circumcision..." He is drawing a line between him and those who agree with him and those who do not. Who was the sect? Was it Paul and those with him or the false teachers? Paul later referred to these men as "enemies of the cross of Christ." These men did not deny baptism, heaven, hell, or the deity of Christ.

They were men who believed in Jesus, repented of their sins, and were baptized into Christ. They were added to the church by Jesus. Now, however, they were teaching and practicing false doctrine. Was Paul wrong for drawing a line between faithful Christians and these unfaithful men?

The next statements I will cite from "heretic" really bother me. He speaks blasphemy. He said, "Ideally, we would all be able to agree on all points of doctrine and practice and be one in the most literal sense. That is both improbable and impractical. It has never been and there is little prospect that it will ever be. I question that Jesus had that in mind when he prayed for our unity, for he knew that we are humans rather than angels." This one statement alone ought to tell you "heretic" is a false teacher headed to hell and that those who agree with him are headed the same place (Matt. 15:14).

First, if unity is improbable and impractical, it is God's fault. God made the Bible (Jn. 16:1-13). He also made man (Gen. 1:26, 27). He made the one (Bible) for the other (man). Thus, if the Bible cannot be understood by men alike, it is His fault; He is to blame for all division—not just among "heretic"'s church of Christ – Christian Church fellowship.

Second, for what did Jesus pray if not for unity among His followers (Jn. 17:20-23). He prayed "for those who will believe in Me through their word" (Jn. 17:20). That is the doctrine taught by the apostles would bring men together in Christ. He prayed "that they all may be one" (Jn. 17:21). One what and how? He prayed "that they may be one just as We are one" (Jn. 17:22). The Father and Son were one in "all points." If not, then one of them is not God. If Jesus did not pray for the unity of believers in doctrine and practice, then what was He praying for? Unity in hair cuts, clothing color, or favorite dessert? Please. This is a blatant attempt by "heretic" to contradict what Jesus said. This is what error will do—bring one to deny the obvious.

Third, the disciples of the first century had practical unity. "And they continued in the apostles' doctrine and fellowship, in breaking of bread, and prayers...So continuing daily with one accord in the temple..." (Acts 2:42, 46). "Now the multitude of those who believed were of one heart and one soul" (Acts 4:32). Remember there were about 3,000 disciples in Acts 2, and growing into Acts 4 to around 5,000 (Acts 4:4). If 5,000 can be of "one heart and one soul" can 50,000 or 500,000?