



Heart Warming Ministries

Ego and The Tongue – Parasites of Real Ministry

Division...Webster's Dictionary defines that word as "something that divides or separates." It is one of those words that can have positive or negative meanings. On the positive side, to divide one's concern means that someone else helps share the concern. To divide cost means to share in the cost. To divide the labor means to share in the labor.

On the other hand, when the word is used in the church, it often does not have a positive connotation, but negative. In fact, the opposite of divide is multiply or unify. Disunity and brokenness can find its way into the hearts of people over anything from the building program, to the leadership style of the pastor, to the kind of music, or even the order of the morning worship service. I found a great deal of comfort recently when after hearing some of my flock in a previous assignment talk about the problems of the worship program, when my wife and I attended two very large congregations and found they had the same problem we had...the worship service was the same. I wonder if they had members talking about the structure of their worship?

The issue is often so irrelevant. Unfortunately, the real issue is that of who wins. What is often at stake is who's in charge. It is often a matter of who holds the power. Disunity, power struggles, ego, and the tongue do more harm to the Kingdom of God than do the demonic forces of hell itself. Think with me about this...When was the last time you heard of a church that was divided because of the virgin birth or salvation by faith, or the command to "care for one another"?

So what happens? Someone shares a criticism with others in order to drum up support. Excuse the analogy, but it sounds a lot like the election campaigning in 2016. Forgive us our Father for such selfish motives.

Did you know the tongue is the greatest cause for division within the church? In James 3:6, God's Word says, "The tongue also is a fire, a world of evil among the parts of the body. It corrupts the whole body, sets the whole course of one's life on fire, and is itself set on fire by hell." (NIV).

To use the tongue to rally support for our position or viewpoint too often spreads the fires of hell within the church. The tongue polarizes, divides, and separates far too often. The innate desire we all have to justify or defend ourselves takes over. DIVISION.

The apostle Paul admonishes us not to avenge ourselves, but to let God settle accounts. Blessed is the church leader who can accept wrong without retaliation. Over the years I have seen folks far too often stay to prove a point or to "get justice" when they would have been better just leaving.



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I rejoice today that God works among His people despite diversity of opinion and imperfections. As humans we will never totally agree on everything, but only heaven will reveal the damage that has been done to the Body of Christ by members of congregations who “feel called” to support their pet grievances. Friends, our churches are filled with parasites who create a body that is cancerous, weak, and poorly fit for battle. If you are guilty of dividing the body with your tongue, you need to repent. When you disagree with the leadership of the church, it is better that you talk with God rather than with your newly made friends. Remember, the tongue is “a fire, a world of evil” if you allow it to be. My friend, God calls us to unity. If you are destroying the church of God, beware of the wrath of God.