

CLASS

LESSON NUMBER

400 A

THOUGHT PROVOKING BIBLE STUDIES



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MORALS AND POLITICS IN THE CHURCH – LESSON 2

1. **The NT Church** Paul said of it (1 Cor 12:24-25) that “*God hath _____ the _____ together--that there should be no _____ in the body.*” In this comparison of the human body to the church Paul notes (V26) that if “*_____ member suffer, _____ the members _____*” and if “*_____ member be honoured, _____ the members _____.*”
2. **The Cord That Binds** (Ps 133:1) “*How _____ and how _____ it is for _____ to _____ together in _____!*” Paul said: (2 Cor 5:14) “*For the _____ of _____ constraineth us.*” The word “*constraineth*” is from the GK *sunechō* which means to *hold together*. The mutually shared “*love of Christ*” binds our hearts and minds to Jesus and to each other.
3. **Division Of Any Kind Is Harmful** Remember that we are speaking of (a) the LAW of Christ and (b) any POLICIES within the local church that govern or influence its cohesion as a spiritual body. Paul told the Corinthians: (1 Cor 11:18) “*When ye _____ in the church, I hear that there be _____ among you.*” Earlier he began the epistle (1:10) by telling them to “*speak the _____ thing, and that there be _____ among you.*” In (11:17) he declared, “*Ye come together _____ for the _____, but for the _____.*”
4. **Party-ism** The Corinthians were contentious (1 Cor 1:12) because “*every one of you saith, I am _____ Paul; and I _____ Apollos; and I _____ Cephas; and I _____ Christ.*” The Apostle asks: (V13) “*Is Christ _____?*” There was a unique First Century problem whereas some now try to force their *secular* agendas and *political* partisanship onto the church. All such ignorance, prejudice, respect of persons, and selfishness is divisive.
5. **Does God Excuse Ignorance?** Our focus is on willfully choosing to ignore that which we could and should know. Example: We have a “word picture” of the judgment (Mt 25) when (V32) “*all nations*” shall be gathered with those on the “*left hand*” making excuse (V44), “*Lord, _____ saw _____ thee an hungered, or _____, or a stranger, or naked, or _____, or in prison, and _____ not _____ unto thee?*” The reply: “*Inasmuch as ye _____ it _____ to one of the _____ of these, ye did it _____ to _____.*” (V46) “*These shall go away into _____ punishment.*”
6. **Immunity By Virtue Of Ignorance?** May we with impunity divide the church today over personal opinions? _____ By efforts to “ram through” policies devised from plain ignorance? _____ With premeditated boycotts or takeovers? _____ In (Acts 4:13) the *inspired* Apostles were “examined” by learned Jews who “*perceived that they were _____ and _____ men.*”
7. **More “Unlearned”** (V13) is from the GK *agrammatos* and basically means *unlettered; illiterate*. The word “*ignorant*” is from the GK *idiōtēs* implying an *ignoramus—rude, unlearned*. It is one thing to lack formal schooling and quite another to be an idiot. Peter said (2 Pet 3:16) that the “*unlearned and _____ wrest*” God’s Word “*unto their _____ destruction.*” The GK word is different but means ignorant. Our point is not about mere ignorance, but willful ignorance.

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