

Religious Division

by Bill Crews

1. Religious division is contrary to the prayer of Christ for the unity of His disciples (Jn. 17:20-21). To defend, uphold or contend for religious division is to act contrary to the Savior's prayer.
2. Religious division among those who profess to believe the Bible and to follow Christ leads people to reject the inspiration of the Bible and the deity of Christ (Jn. 17:21).
3. Religious division causes the world to be confused. The world is presented with the enigma of conflicting doctrines and contrary standards, all claiming to be right and of God. God cannot be the author of such.
4. Religious division is contrary to God's platform of unity. Read Ephesians 4:1-6, which declares that there is one body, one Spirit, one hope, one Lord, one faith, one baptism, and one God and Father. "Christendom" declares that there are many bodies or churches, many faiths, many baptisms, and many hopes; but the Bible teaches otherwise. If there is one head, Christ, how many bodies are there? (Col. 1:18; Eph. 1:23) If there is one groom, Jesus the Christ, how many brides are there? (Jn. 3:29; Eph. 5:23-33) If there is one foundation, Christ, how many spiritual buildings are there? (1 Cor. 3:9, 11) If there is one Father, God, how many families of God are there? (Eph. 4:6).
5. Religious division is destructive (Lk. 11:17), a work of the flesh (Gal. 5:19-21), and the result of carnal minds (1 Cor. 3:1-4).
6. Religious division is plainly condemned by New Testament teaching (Rom. 16:17; 1 Cor. 1:10-13).
7. Religious sects are not planted by God, and every plant not planted by God will be rooted up (Matt. 15:1-13; 16:18 -- please notice the contexts).
8. The unity that God requires cannot be had man's way: by human wisdom and standards, by mergers and unions, by compromises in doctrine. The unity that God requires can come alone by men having a common fellowship with God by walking alike in the light of His truth (1 Jn. 1:3, 6-7; 2 Jn. 9; 1 Pet. 4:11).

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