

THE FIRST UNITY MOVEMENT

Gen 11:1-8

INTRODUCTION:

- A. We hear a lot today about "unity" which is good. Yet, many want to lower the standards which God has set.
- B. In every age God has condemned division among His people and has commended unity
- C. One of the seven things God hates, is one who sows discord among brethren Prov 6:19 - contrast Psa 133:1
- D. "God not author of confusion, but peace" 1Cor 14:33
 - 1. In view of this passage, a divided religious world cannot claim God as its author Matt 12:25
 - 2. Christ sets forth a principle that applies to any institution. Whether home, school, any institution even the church, division spells its doom
- D. Gen 11 tells of what could be called the first unity movement: whole earth of one language, and speech (v.1)
 - 1. People got together and decided to build a city
 - 2. Three reasons for unity movement. wanted to reach heaven own way, make a name for themselves; did not want to be scattered upon face of whole earth (v.4)
 - 3. God neither impressed nor pleased. He confounded language and scattered them abroad. vs 7,8 - WHY?

DISCUSSION:

I. DESIRED TO BUILD TOWER TO HEAVEN

- A. Wasn't this an honorable goal? No, here's why
 - 1. Desired to reach Heaven in own way - not God's
 - 2. Millions of people going to be lost because instead of submitting to God's will they reject it in favor of man-made philosophies and fables 2Tim 4:3,4
- B. All the different churches in the world with their own doctrine, creeds, and terms of admission are the result of this kind of thinking
 - 1. People will be lost because they did not choose to follow the path that leads to life Matt 7:13,14
 - 2. There is one body Eph 4:4 - that body is the church Eph 1:22,23; Col 1:18,24
 - 3. Jesus only promised to build one Matt 16:18
 - a. He did not promise a plurality of churches, all teaching conflicting doctrines
 - b. Note what Jesus said about following doctrines and commandments of men Matt 15:9
- C. Denominationalism condemns itself!
 - 1. It says: "We'll come to God, but on our own terms"
 - 2. These stand condemned Matt 15:8,9,13

- 3. We need to lovingly, but firmly teach the people in these unbiblical institutions the way of salvation
- 4. Sadly, some brethren decided to be partakers in their error rather than giving them warning
- 5. Blood upon their hands Ezek 3:18-20; Acts 20:26

II. MAKE A NAME FOR THEMSELVES

- A. Not love for God, but vanity that motivated them
- B. People more concerned with large followings and pats on the back than doctrine of Christ 2Jhn 9; Prov 16:18
- C. If desiring popularity, becoming a gospel preacher is not the way to find it, not if one preaches the truth
 - 1. There is no such thing as a non-offensive gospel!
 - 2. That's why Jesus was nailed to the cross; Stephen was stoned to death, and Paul was beheaded
 - 3. Preach uncompromising truth & majority objected
 - 4. They didn't like it, just as many (most) today will not like it when the truth is preached
- D. When a preacher never offends anyone, he needs to stop and ask himself why? Lk 6:26 (doesn't mean we should TRY to offend, but the Truth will offend some)

III. WOULDN'T HAVE TO OBEY EARLIER COMMAND

- A. God told Noah and his sons to "be fruitful and multiply and replenish the earth." Gen 9:1
 - 1. Noah's descendants against being "scattered abroad upon face of whole earth" Gen 11:4
 - 2. So, put themselves against commands of God and in a dangerous situation - same today
- B. Sin just as repulsive to God today as O. T. times
 - 1. Today we have an advantage - God provided the perfect sacrifice - His Son Jesus
 - 2. If His blood doesn't cover your sins - they're not covered
 - 3. God will not ignore unforgiven sins Matt 7:21
 - 4. Wages of sin is death Rom 6:23

CONCLUSION:

- A. Tower of Babel bad idea because built for 3 bad reasons
 - 1. Desire reach heaven own way - not God's (Selfishness)
 - 2. They wanted to make a name for themselves (Pride)
 - 3. Didn't want to obey God's commands (Rebelliousness)
- B. It has been said that the reason history repeats itself because people didn't listen the first time.
- C. Are we listening now? We can't say: "I Did It My Way"
- D. God desires unity, but on His terms, not ours. We must be one in Christ and God Jhn 17:20-23