
Words of Truth

Congregations Cannot Be Divided Up By Families

By: Brian A. Yeager

When you study the Scriptures there is an obvious individual responsibility that we all have regarding our physical families and households (Colossians 3:18-4:1, I Timothy 5:3-16, and I Peter 3:1-7). You cannot be a faithful disciple of our Lord if you do not properly live up to His expectations in this and all areas of the life of a Christian. With families, like many other matters in the Scriptures, there are qualifiers.

A child of God cannot love or prioritize his or her physical family above the Lord (Luke 14:25-33). The fact is, serving the Lord faithfully very often causes division within physical families. Notice: *“Think not that I am come to send peace on earth: I came not to send peace, but a sword. For I am come to set a man at variance against his father, and the daughter against her mother, and the daughter in law against her mother in law. And a man's foes shall be they of his own household. He that loveth father or mother more than me is not worthy of me: and he that loveth son or daughter more than me is not worthy of me. And he that taketh not his cross, and followeth after me, is not worthy of me. He that findeth his life shall lose it: and he that loseth his life for my sake shall find it”* (Matthew 10:34-39).

What we just addressed is not the actual study we are going to engage in. I wanted to try to make sure we covered the things above so that the wrong conclusions are not drawn from what we are about to address. Be careful going forward (II Peter 3:15-17).

A problem has existed in many congregations that I [we] have personally witnessed. It has been a past problem here and even recently came about again. That problem is that congregations seem to have some families within that think as a family rather than as individual members of the congregation. That is wrong! As members of the body of Christ we are a spiritual family (Ephesians 3:15). The head of our family is Christ as He is the husband and we all come together to make up His bride (Ephesians 5:22-33). What we have to address and understand is that we are not families within a congregation. We are the family of the Lord (Mark 3:31-35). We are members of each other, not members of certain families.

Members One Of Another

We must grasp the fact that we are individuals that come together as the local church. Paul wrote: *“For as we have many members in one body, and all members have not the same*

office: So we, being many, are one body in Christ, and every one members one of another” (Romans 12:4-5). In another letter to another congregation he wrote: “For the body is not one member, but many. If the foot shall say, Because I am not the hand, I am not of the body; is it therefore not of the body? And if the ear shall say, Because I am not the eye, I am not of the body; is it therefore not of the body? If the whole body were an eye, where were the hearing? If the whole were hearing, where were the smelling? But now hath God set the members every one of them in the body, as it hath pleased him. And if they were all one member, where were the body? But now are they many members, yet but one body. And the eye cannot say unto the hand, I have no need of thee: nor again the head to the feet, I have no need of you. Nay, much more those members of the body, which seem to be more feeble, are necessary: And those members of the body, which we think to be less honourable, upon these we bestow more abundant honour; and our uncomely parts have more abundant comeliness. For our comely parts have no need: but God hath tempered the body together, having given more abundant honour to that part which lacked: That there should be no schism in the body; but that the members should have the same care one for another. And whether one member suffer, all the members suffer with it; or one member be honoured, all the members rejoice with it. Now ye are the body of Christ, and members in particular” (I Corinthians 12:14-27).

Brethren, if my family were to think as the “Yeager’s” instead of different talented individual members of the congregation, that would be a division. Is division sinful? We all know that division within the body of Christ is certainly sinful and those guilty of such have to be dealt with (Romans 16:17-18, I Corinthians 1:10-17, I Corinthians 3:1-3, I Corinthians 11:16-18, Galatians 5:19-21, Ephesians 4:1-6, and Philipians 1:27). Do we understand that the family relationship is only carnal? Do we understand that the family relationship is only as lasting as our physical lives?

There Will Be No Marriage In Heaven

When we rise from the dead (I Thessalonians 4:13-18), we will neither marry, nor be given in marriage (Mark 12:25 and Luke 20:35). We will all be transformed into different bodies meant for eternity (I Corinthians 15:35-57). We will be made like our Lord (I John 3:1-3). We will be individually rewarded or punished (II Corinthians 5:10). We are brothers and sisters in Christ and we will be then as joint heirs with Christ (Romans 8:17). We will NOT be husbands, wives, sons, daughters, etc. Get used to that now or you won’t experience it in eternity.

Conclusion

Enjoy our liberties, like marriage (I Corinthians 7:1-40), now. In Heaven, all things will be changed from the physical to the spiritual. For now, think of the church as our foresight of life then (Hebrews 12:22-29). Don’t confuse your physical family with our spiritual family.