

Elder Bobby Willis



I Corinthians 1:10, “Now I beseech you, brethren, by the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that ye all speak the same thing and that there be no divisions among you; but that ye be perfectly joined together in the same mind and in the same judgment.”

We are living in a day and age where there is no longer just Christians who are all of the same mind who believe in one true and living God (monotheism), contending with those who believed in no God at all, or, believing in multiple gods (polytheism). This is an age of where there are numerous churches believing some variance of what the scriptures teach. There are now numerous differences in the versions of the scriptures themselves which these numerous churches hold to, believing them to be the truth. (Note: I preach from the King James Translation only). No wonder that even in Paul’s day there were christian brethren who were not speaking the same thing and many divisions were occurring in what their own private interpretations were. Paul, with a prayerful heart, was beseeching (earnestly contending with) the brethren by the authority of our Lord Jesus Christ. He desired for them to speak the same thing, knowing that if they did, there would be no divisions among them. However, when one walks disorderly, Paul said that we were to withdraw ourselves from their fellowship. This does not mean we are to hate them, dislike them, mistreat them, not pray for them, or not love them for Christ’s sake; but it does mean we are not to fellowship with (embrace) disorder. Disorder can mean ungodly walk (things of the flesh) or it can mean false teachings or false beliefs. II Thessalonians 3:6 says, **“withdraw yourselves from every brother that walketh disorderly...”** We are not to have a part with those who teach something other than that which was preached by Christ Himself and the Apostles. For example, if someone believes we can preach to an unbeliever, and they can just believe and be saved in eternity, it is heresy. Paul speaks plainly in Ephesians 2:8, **“For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God...”**

Neither are we to fellowship with those who are proud, seeing that Paul told Timothy that they knew nothing, “...doting about questions and strifes of words, whereof cometh envy, strife, railings, evil surmisings, Perverse disputings of men of corrupt minds...” (I Timothy 6:4-5). Paul then went on to say these disorderly men were “**destitute of the truth**” (I Timothy 6:5).

Paul was not alone in standing for the truths of God’s word. Peter expresses the same doctrinal foundation in II Peter 2:1-2, “**But there were false prophets also among the people, even as there shall be false teachers among you, who privily shall bring in damnable heresies, even denying the Lord that bought them, and bring upon themselves swift destruction.**”

Where do you stand today? Do you stand for the “**common salvation**” and “**earnestly contend for the faith which was once delivered unto the saints**” (Jude 1:3), or, are you “**tossed to and fro, and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the sleight of men, and cunning craftiness, whereby they lie in wait to deceive..**” (Ephesians 4:14)? To know the difference one must rightly divide the word of truth (II Timothy 2:15) which can only be done by much prayer, study, and meditation of God’s Holy Word. *Think about it!*