

Accord or Discord?

Ponder: the precious of unity

Scripture: “Behold, how good and how pleasant it is for brethren to dwell together in unity!” (Psalm 133:1, NKJV).

God values unity, harmony, and peace. So should we! The Holy Spirit, speaking through Paul, exhorts us to endeavor “to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace” (Ephesians 4:3). To do otherwise is to fail to “walk worthily of the calling with which you were called” (4:1). Paul also pleaded with the Philippians to “fulfill my joy by being like-minded, having the same love, being of one accord, of one mind” (Phil. 2:2).

Sad to say, not everyone seeks to be of one accord. In fact, instead of accord, some take great delight in “sowing discord” (Prov. 6:14). “Discord” is elsewhere translated “strife” (Prov. 10:12). It denotes contention and quarreling. Difficult to imagine as it is, there are people who derive some morbid pleasure from stirring up an argument and watching people quarrel.

Our God strenuously disapproves! In fact, “one who sows discord among brethren” crowns the list of seven things the Lord hates to the point of finding them detestable (Prov. 6:19). Think of it: sowing discord is in the same company with such sins as arrogance, lying, murder, and perjury. God is spirit, but if He had a physical stomach, these things would make Him nauseous!

We realize, of course, that the Bible doesn’t teach “unity at any price.” God forbids us to have fellowship with “the unfruitful works of darkness” (Eph. 5:11). There comes a point when we must “come out from among them and be separate” (2 Cor. 6:17). But such drastic action must be taken only when a situation is actually sinful (not merely something I don’t like). And patient efforts to correct it must have met with failure.

Jesus said, “Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called sons of God” (Matt. 5:9). Let us look for ways to make peace today. Let us keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace. May we never be among those who sow discord, but rather may we be of one accord!

Song: “Bind Us Together”

Prayer: Loving Father, we thank You for the bond we share in Christ Jesus our Lord. May we do all in our power to strengthen and preserve that bond in harmony with Your holy will. Help us, we pray, never to undermine that bond by sowing discord among our brethren. In Jesus’ name, Amen.