



Trait #22- Fighting Like the Unchurched"

Day 1

Read 1 Corinthians 11:17-22;

Note: in verse 18 "divisions" were not the same as those mentioned in 1 Corinthians 1:10-17. Here the rich and socially elite were separating themselves from the rest.

Definition: *factions*- dissensions arising from differing opinions or aims (a sect or party)

As you see in chapter one and here, there are many different ways divisions can happen in a church. Basically, anytime a person or group of people separating themselves from the rest (forming a "clique" or withdrawing all together) the body of Christ is divided. " The hand can't say to the foot, I have no need of you".

Do you see this happening around you?

Have you noticed yourself doing this?

Read Ephesians 4:15-16;

How does this passage speak to you? What does it tell you of how the church (God's people) is supposed to interact with itself? (vs. *16)

Where do you see divisions, factions, heresies, within the church today (not just with Keystone, but the body of Christ in your local area)? Worldwide?

May God give His people the strength and wisdom to stop dividing **His** body!



Trait #22- Fighting Like the Unchurched”

Day 2

Read Romans 15:1-7; Philipians 2:2-4; 1 Peter 3:8,9;

These are just a few verses that admonish us to be of the same mind. Why does the Bible stress on this point?

To properly answer the above question, there are a few other questions which need answered first:

What is the body of Christ?

What or who is the church?

Does it really matter if your at "odds" with your brother/sister?

According to the bible, What is the function of the body of Christ/ the church?

Read Ephesians 4:11-16, again;

Think about the questions above, and ponder these verses today. Tomorrow we will take a deeper look into these things. I also want you to think about what effect cancer has on the human body? And how does this relate to divisions, factions, schisms, etc. within the body of Christ?



Trait #22- Fighting Like the Unchurched”

Day 3

Yesterdays questions:

1. What is the body of Christ? Who or what is the Church? Many centuries ago a man filled with the Holy Spirit said this: "However, the Most High does not dwell in temples made with hands as the prophet says 'Heaven is My throne and the earth is My footstool. What house will you build for Me? Or what is the place of My rest? Has My hand not made all these things?'"

Acts 7:48-50

So if God's body or His Church is not a building, what or who is it? **Answer:** Read Ephesians 2:19-22 and 1 Peter 2:4-5

2. What effect does cancer have on the human body? And what does cancer have to do with the body of Christ? In the human body, once cancer reaches a certain point (especially when it hits the lymph nodes) it spreads like a wild fire. The same goes for the body of Christ and or Church (individual members, which make up Gods' dwelling place when united in one mind; Ephesians 4:15-16). But cancer in God's spiritual house would include: gossip, backbiting, envy, jealousy, false teachings, arguing (1 Timothy 6:4-5), strife and the like.

3. So then, does it really matter that your at "odds" with your brother or sister? We will answer this question with a question. If each believer makes up a part of the body of Christ, and so much stress is given in the New Testament to being like minded (or of one mind), how can we as a body of believers grow, if we are eating at each other like cancer eats at a human body?



Trait #22- Fighting Like the Unchurched”

Day 4

Read James 4:1-10

As many of us have seen conflicts arise in church settings and some of us have even experienced the hurt that comes from them, what do these verses tell us about where conflict comes from?

What can we do to ensure, in light of these verses, that we are not part of the problem?

What are some good questions to ask ourselves as we feel our opinions getting stronger and stronger about something that is causing conflict?

Think of a conflict you were involved in recently (whether at home, church or even work). In what ways did you see the things talked about in these verses played out?



Trait #22- Fighting Like the Unchurched”

Day 5

Read 1 Corinthians 12

How would this chapter help in keeping the church unified?

How have you seen this at work at Keystone Church or another church in the past?

Considering what was going on in the church that Paul is writing to, what do you think was Paul's main hopes and purposes for including this chapter?

What are some ways that you have seen the body of Christ (the church) not function well?