

Banner: The Sure Word

Title: "No Divisions"

By Jonnie Hutchison

We live in a world of religious division. If one is willing to search long enough he will find a "church" or "religion" that fits his chosen lifestyle and satisfies his personal desires. One may search the internet and find a "gay church directory," the Church of Satan, pagan and earth-based religions such as Wicca and Goddess spirituality and a multiplicity of denominations catering to a variety of different and conflicting views and each having their own distinctive beliefs and practices. Add to this the religion of Islam, the Jewish religion, the different forms of Mormonism, Scientology, Christian Science, the Unification Church and a host of religious cults and it's no wonder that division and confusion is the rule of the day in our world when it comes to religion.

Jesus prayed, *"That they all may be **one**, as thou, Father, art in me, and I in thee, that they also may be **one** in us, **that the world may believe that thou hast sent me**"* (John 17:21). These words emphasize the truth that religious division creates unbelief. That is the very reason Jesus gave for His desire that those who follow Him would be ONE as He and the Father are ONE. It should be obvious that the beliefs and practices of the Father and the Son do not differ nor conflict in any way. They exist in complete harmony without any hint of divisiveness. Why then would one assume that the Godhead would approve of the current religious division?

*"Now I beseech you, brethren, by the name of the 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"* (1 Corinthians 1:10). According to this passage, how much religious division does the Lord permit among those who would follow Him? The answer is "**NO DIVISIONS**"! How is that possible? The answer is "be perfectly joined together in the **same mind** and in the **same judgment**." We humans think, reason and make decisions with our minds. To be of the same mind means that we are thinking alike or thinking the same thing and reasoning the same way. And to be of the "same judgment" means that we reach the same conclusions based upon our thinking and reasoning alike. But it should be obvious that we will not be of the same mind and the same judgment without a mutual source of objective knowledge which guides us in our thinking and judgment (Jeremiah 10:23). That mutual source of knowledge is the revealed Word of God! *"Nevertheless, wherto we have already attained, let us **walk by the same rule, let us mind the same thing**"* (Philippians 3:16). If we are to have NO DIVISIONS we must accept the Bible and the Bible only as that which rules our thinking and practice in all matters religious. Green Plain church of Christ 3980 Murray Paris Rd Hazel, KY.