

**United We Stand**



**Divided We Fall**



# United We Stand, Divided We Fall

1Co 1:10 Now I plead with you, brethren, by the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that you all speak the same thing, and that there be no divisions among you, but that you be perfectly joined together in the same mind and in the same judgment.



■ In the *World Christian Encyclopedia* (Oxford Univ. Press 2nd edition 2001) it states that there are over 33,000 different Christian denominations in the world today!

▶ This was over 10 years ago! But today we want to properly understand “why” this is and “how” to overcome this great division!

▶ The very idea of a “denomination” is a specific division; a part of the whole; a religious group that has it’s own specific beliefs and practices (Oxford)

■ As this is true with our country, it is even more so with the church! We are to be united!

# **The Bible spends a great deal of time addressing the need for unity**

Am 3:3 Can two walk together, except they be agreed?

Ec 4:9 Two are better than one; because they have a good reward for their labour.

Ec 4:10 For if they fall, the one will lift up his fellow: but woe to him that is alone when he falleth; for he hath not another to help him up.

Ec 4:11 Again, if two lie together, then they have heat: but how can one be warm alone?

Ec 4:12 And if one prevail against him, two shall withstand him; and a threefold cord is not quickly broken.



# I. What Will Unite Us?

- The number one goal of a Christian is to learn to be “like-minded” with Christ!
- We are told twice to have “the mind of Christ”
  - ▶ 1Co 2:16 For who hath known the mind of the Lord, that he may instruct him? But we have the mind of Christ.
  - ▶ Php 2:5 Let this mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus:

■ Many other verse teach this principle!

▶ Ro 12:16 Be of the same mind one toward another.

▶ 1Co 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.

**The Best  
Vitamin for a  
Christian  
B-One!**



# How many of you remember the bracelets WWJD?

- WWJD = What Would Jesus Do
  - ▶ We can only properly answer this question if we have first learned how He thinks!
  - ▶ This is “key” to having unity with God and with one another!

- In our passage we are being told the same thing in three ways!
- 1Co 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.

## II. What Will Divide Us?

First = “Following men rather than God!”

1Co 1:10-13 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. For it hath been declared unto me of you, my brethren, by them which are of the house of Chloe, that there are contentions among you. Now this I say, that every one of you saith, I am of Paul; and I of Apollos; and I of Cephas; and I of Christ. Is Christ divided? was Paul crucified for you? or were ye baptized in the name of Paul?



## Again in Chapter 3

1Co 3:3 For ye are yet carnal: for whereas there is among you envying, and strife, and divisions, are ye not carnal, and walk as men?

1Co 3:4 For while one saith, I am of Paul; and another, I am of Apollos; are ye not carnal?

1Co 3:5 Who then is Paul, and who is Apollos, but ministers by whom ye believed, even as the Lord gave to every man?

1Co 3:6 I have planted, Apollos watered; but God gave the increase.

## Second = thinking more highly of self than we ought!

- Ro 12:3 For I say, through the grace given unto me, to every man that is among you, not to think of himself more highly than he ought to think; but to think soberly, according as God hath dealt to every man the measure of faith.
- Pr 25:27 It is not good to eat much honey: so for men to search their own glory is not glory.
- Pr 16:18 Pride goeth before destruction, and an haughty spirit before a fall.



## Third = following tradition not truth

Mt 15:2-5 Why do thy disciples transgress the tradition of the elders? for they wash not their hands when they eat bread. But he answered and said unto them, Why do ye also transgress the commandment of God by your tradition? For God commanded, saying, Honour thy father and mother: and, He that curseth father or mother, let him die the death." But you say, "Whoever says to his father or mother, "Whatever profit you might have received from me is a gift to God"



■ Mt 15:6-9 And honour not his father or his mother, he shall be free. Thus have ye made the commandment of God of none effect by your tradition. Ye hypocrites, well did Esaias prophesy of you, saying, This people draweth nigh unto me with their mouth, and honoureth me with their lips; but their heart is far from me. But in vain they do worship me, teaching for doctrines the commandments of men.

# Conclusion:

- “In doctrine unity, in opinion liberty, and in all things love!” This was the slogan of the Restoration Movement in the 1800s.
- Another was “we speak where the Bible speaks, we remain silent where the Bible is silent!”
- God has always desired that His children be united and not divided! This will only come when we truly learn to have the mind of Christ!
- Gal. 5:15 But if ye bite and devour one another, take heed that ye be not consumed one of another.



A photograph of a stone wall with a vertical crack down the center. The words "DIVIDED" and "WE FALL" are cut out of the wall, with the letters appearing as dark, three-dimensional shapes. The lighting is dramatic, with the left side of the wall being brightly lit and the right side being in deep shadow.

**DIVIDED**  
**WE FALL**