

THE TREATMENT OF BRETHREN

LESSON TWO

INTRODUCTION:

1. In this lesson we want to study some things that destroy peace among brethren.

I. CARNALITY CAUSES DIVISION -- I Cor. 3: 1 - 6; Rom. 8: 6 - 7

1. How can a church know if it is made up of carnal members?

- (1) If they are filled with jealousy and strife all the time you can know they are carnal -- James 3: 14 - 16; Phil. 2:3
- (2) If they always want their own selfish way, they are to be labeled as Carnal -- Rom. 15: 2 - 3
- (3) If they have a chip on their shoulder and always in a fuss they are Carnal -- Rom. 12:18
- (4) If they are producing the fruits of the flesh -- Gal. 5: 19 - 21 -- they are Carnal.
- (5) If they are unable to take sound preaching and are always griping about the preaching, they are Carnal -- II Tim. 4: 2 - 4

II. PRIDE IS ONE OF THE GREATEST CAUSES OF DIVISION

1. The pride of knowledge -- I Cor. 8: 1 -2

(1) Brother "know- it- all"

1. He knows who is right and who is wrong.
2. He knows what has to be done, and how to do it.
3. He knows, but he has a poor attitude toward the less informed -- I Cor. 8: 1 - 2; Phil. 2: 2 - 5

2. The pride of power

- (1) Some must be at the head of all that is done -- II John 9 - 10
- (2) They want all to ask them before anything is done.
- (3) They will ask nobody before they do what they want to do.
- (4) All that is done, that they had nothing to do with, they will oppose.

III. INACTIVITY CAUSES DIVISION MANY TIMES.

1. In every congregation there is a certain amount of vitality which must, and will, find expression in some way.

2. Inactivity promotes discontentment, and this spirit of discontent grows into a spirit of unrest and dissatisfaction with each other.

3. Nagging develops, ill feelings are generated, and strife is the inevitable result.
4. If the members of the church do not have something else to fight, they will fight among themselves.

IV. PEEVISHNESS

1. Being easily provoked -- love will not allow such a disposition.
2. I Cor. 13:5

Donald Townsley
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