

THE KINGDOM AND UNITY

1 Corinthians 3:1-4

INTRODUCTION

- A. The kingdom which the prophets saw and of which they so eloquently spoke, is a perfect explanation of, and also is an illustration of perfect unity.
- B. The prophets spoke much of a gathering of his people by God.
- C. That gathering was unto Himself.
- D. Israel did not have the heart for unity. Their heart was not right with God. They had a carnal – fleshly – worldly heart.
- E. The carnal mind is responsible for all of the division among the people of God.
- F. Division and disunity is not caused by the sincere seeker of truth and righteousness. Division is never caused of the godly person seeking first the kingdom of God and His righteousness. Look at our text.

DISCUSSION

I. ESSENTIALS OF UNITY.

- A. IS 2:2-4.
 - 1. Those that went up to the mountain of the Lord were willing subjects.
 - 2. They urged others to be like-minded in seeking the Lord's way.
 - 3. The consequence of their going would be to be taught the Lord's way.
 - 4. That way was the way of peace and unity.
 - 5. Peace is the result of righteousness. IS 32:17.
 - 6. With righteousness (justification) enjoyed, peace would be a natural by-product of it.
 - 7. RO 5:1.
 - 8. The peace of which the prophets spoke was peace with God which would come with forgiveness of their sins, or justification.
 - 9. Blessings: righteousness and peace with God.
- B. IS 9:7. That the kingdom would increase because the people were willing subjects of the King.
 - 1. Government and peace are linked together.
 - 2. The kingdom is the rule of God in the heart.

- 3. Always accompanying the rule of God is righteousness and peace. RO 14:17
 - 4. Righteousness, peace, and joy are the order in which the blessings of the kingdom begin.
 - 5. Peace results when those involved are in agreement with God. It is impossible to be a citizen of the kingdom of God without being in agreement with God.
 - 6. Those in agreement with God are also in agreement with all others who are in agreement with Him. Agreement is necessary for two to walk together. Amos 3:3.
 - 7. Israel thought she could do her thing, enjoy her lusts of the flesh, worship as she pleased, serve idols and God as they pleased, and be acceptable to God. God said, You are mistaken.
 - 8. You and I cannot fellowship in unity (walk together) together except we first agree. Religious people today make the same mistake Israel made. All must first bow in submission to the will of God before they can walk with God.
- C. Isaiah prophesied of the kingdom in which the righteousness of God would be declared to the Gentiles and His glory manifested to the kings. Those in the kingdom would have a new name. IS 61:1-4.
- 1. The new name would be synonymous with righteousness to the end of the earth, because God would cause it to be proclaimed.
 - 2. In the context the prophet saw a great gathering. IS 56:1-8.
 - 3. This "gathering" is a figure of speech to indicate that God would draw them to Himself in agreement.
 - 4. How would this be done? JN 6:44-45
 - 5. The teaching would result in people being united with the Lord and with each other.
 - 6. In Antioch both Jew and Gentile met to worship and serve God. Acts 11:26. It was the name Christian.

II. HOW UNITY?