

#10 Avoiding Division, Which Is versus the Oneness That We Keep, and Rejecting Apostasy, Which Is versus the Faith That We Contend For

(Crystallization-Study of Deuteronomy) 2020/4/27-5/3

For outline and the Word, please use "The Holy Word for Morning Revival"

Summary: **I.** We must keep the unique oneness of God's people and the unique faith in the person and redemptive work of Christ. Apostasy in the Old Testament denotes giving up God and turning away from God to idols; in the New Testament apostasy is heresy, denoting the denial of Christ's deity and not believing that Jesus Christ is God incarnated to be man. Apostasy, or heresy, insults and damages the person of Christ, and division destroys the Body of Christ as Christ's corporate expression; thus, apostasy and division damage the entire economy of God. Because of this, the apostle Paul charges us to turn away from the divisive ones, and the apostle John enjoins us to reject the heretical ones. **II.** Division is all-inclusive; it includes all negative things, such as Satan, sin, worldliness, the flesh, the self, the old man, and evil temper. Division come out of different teachings, teachings other than God's economy. Whatever we teach should not be measured by whether it is wrong or right; it must be measured by whether it is divisive or not; only one kind of ministry builds up and never divides—this is the unique ministry of God's economy. We all must realize that even a small amount of teaching in different way destroys the recovery. The different teachings are the major source of the church's decline, degradation, and deterioration. **III.** The genuine oneness is an all-inclusive, comprehensive oneness that includes all positive things. Oneness is actually the mingling of the processed and consummated Triune God with the believers. When the oneness is recovered, all the spiritual riches and all the positive things are recovered with it, because they all exist in the oneness. If we see the vision of the oneness of entirety, all the germs of division will be killed, and we will be delivered from every kind of division. According to the record of Solomon and Jeroboam, division is caused by lust and ambition. In the Lord's recovery we elevate Christ and Christ alone. We should have nothing other than the person of Christ and the unique way of the cross. **IV.** We must be fully exercised to separate ourselves from any heresy (apostasy) and heretics (apostates). If anyone denies Christ's incarnation, that one denies Christ's holy birth, humanity, human living, redemption through crucifixion, and resurrection; this utterly annuls the enjoyment of the life-giving Spirit as the reality of the processed Triune God. **V.** Jude exhorts us to earnestly contend for the faith. "The faith" is not subjective faith as our believing, but referring to the things we believe in, the contents of the New Testament as our faith. Our Christian faith is composed of our belief concerning six basic items: the Bible, God, Christ, the work of Christ, salvation, and the church.

Crucial Point(1): Because heresy denies Christ's person and work and division destroys the Body of Christ, we need to thoroughly deal with heresy and division

OL1: We must keep the unique oneness of God's people and the unique faith in the person and

redemptive work of Christ.

OL2: Apostasy in the Old Testament denotes giving up God and turning away from God to idols; in the New Testament apostasy is heresy, denoting the denial of Christ's deity and not believing that Jesus Christ is God incarnated to be a man.

OL3: Division is all-inclusive; it includes all negative things, such as Satan, sin, worldliness, the flesh, the self, the old man, and evil temper.

The New Testament term for apostasy is heresy. Apostasy and heresy are an insult to the person of God. In the Old Testament the apostates turned away from God and followed idols...In the New Testament the heretics denied that Jesus Christ is God incarnated to become a man.

The Lord hates division because it destroys His people as His expression. In the Old Testament the children of Israel were God's people for His corporate expression. In the New Testament the corporate expression of the Lord is the Body of Christ. Whereas heresy insults and damages the person of Christ, division damages the Body of Christ. Division kills the Body of Christ and cuts it into pieces. Because heresy damages the Head and because division kills the Body, the Lord, in both the New Testament and the Old Testament, will never tolerate heresy and division.

Instead of sympathizing with those who make divisions and causes of falling, we are charged by Paul to turn away from them. The reason we must turn away from those who cause divisions is that division is extremely serious—it destroys the Body of Christ....

Division is all-inclusive. It comprises such negative things as Satan, sin, worldliness, the flesh, the self, the old man, and evil temper... Do not think that division stands by itself and that it is not related to such things as the flesh, the self, and worldliness. Division is not only related to all negative things; it includes all ne

This phrase **not to teach different things [1Tim.1:3]** seems so simple... We may not think that this is serious, but actually it is more than serious. It kills people to teach differently. To teach differently tears down God's building and annuls God's entire economy. We all must realize that even a small amount of teaching in a different way destroys the recovery. There is a proverb that says, "One sentence can build up the nation, and one sentence can destroy the entire nation."...Just speaking one sentence that conveys your kind of concept tears down everything.

Application to the serving ones

Both in the Old testament and the New testament, God hates apostasy(heresy) and division. As a serving one, you need to be one with God and thoroughly hates heresy and division. In the age of Paul, the heretical teaching has already crept into. For example, some might feel humbled to have a heresy such as "we are too

impudent to worship Lord Jesus. Let us worship the Lord indirectly through worshipping the angels". Apparently this seems humility. But this heresy nullifies the enjoyment of Christ by the believers. The church is the fullness of Christ, so without enjoying Christ, there cannot be the church. Also the enjoyment of Christ is based on the eternal redemption of Christ. Heresy destructs believers from enjoyment of God-man Christ by denying the effectiveness of Christ's redemption through plausible humility. You can discern the ministry or service not by discerning if it is good or bad, but by discerning if it causes you to love Christ more, if it causes you to enjoy Christ more.

And you need to beware of the division. Some like to form a group and fellowship only with those who get along with. They have their own reasons to such a divisive work, but the basic reason is the negative things such as Satan, sin, the world, flesh, self, old man and short temper. We should not form any group with your favorite preference in the church life. That will nurture your flesh and oppress your regenerated spirit and become the seed of division. You need to be so keen to your own divisive tendency and other's divisive acts. Don't tolerate yourself and others by saying "let it be like that since it is such a small thing". Please do not think that forming a group like this is a small thing. This will destroy the oneness of the Body and enough to cause us to lose the blessing. Those who do like this will destroy their own church life, those who form a group with and give bad influence to other brothers and sisters.

Since God told us to eliminate heresy and division thoroughly, you also need to deal with them strictly. Admonish those are touching division in a strict way. If the person does not repent, refuse such a one. To those who preach heresy, we should not welcome them to our home or greet them. In this way we would not have any contact with them nor share their heresy. Such a heresy is a blasphemy to God and contagious like leprosy.

II John 10 If anyone comes to you and does not bring this teaching, do not receive him into your house, and do not say to him, Rejoice! 11 For he who says to him, Rejoice, shares in his evil works. FN "anyone comes to you and does not bring this teaching," A heretic, an antichrist, a false prophet, one who denies the divine conception and deity of Christ, as today's modernists do.

Prayer : "Oh Lord Jesus, I thoroughly hate the tendency of heresy and division in me and eliminate them. Also I become watchful so that any heresy nor division creep into the church life. Bless the church life in Christ's person and work and the oneness of the Body of Christ."

Crucial Point(2): To protect the oneness of the Body of Christ, you must destroy high places within you

that come from lust and ambition

OL1: For the recovery and preservation of the genuine, all-inclusive oneness, we must destroy the high places.

OL2: To preserve the oneness of His people, God required that they come to the unique place of His choice; the high places were a substitute and an alternative for this unique place.

OL3: A high place is an elevation, something lifted above the common level; in principle, every high place, every division, involves the uplifting, the exaltation, of something other than Christ.

OL4: The record of the building of the high places under Solomon and Jeroboam has a spiritual significance; it was written for our spiritual instruction. According to this record, division is caused by lust and ambition; Solomon is an example of the former, and Jeroboam is an example of the latter.

To set up a high place is to have a division. Hence, the significance of high places is division....To preserve the oneness of His people, God required that they come to the unique place of His choice. The high places, however, were a substitute and an alternative for this unique place....The unique place, Jerusalem, signifies oneness, whereas the high places signify division. Just as all manner of evil and abominable things were related to the setting up of the high places, so, in New Testament terms, all manner of evil is related to division.

According to the record in 1 Kings, two kings...took the lead to set up the high places. In the case of Solomon, the building of the high places was related to the indulgence of lust. Solomon had hundreds of wives and concubines....His wives had "turned his heart after other gods". In the case of Jeroboam, the building of the high places was related to ambition....Fearing that the kingdom would return to the house of David if the people went to Jerusalem to worship, Jeroboam "made a house of high places".

The ground of oneness is not simply a matter of one city, one church. The ground of oneness is deeper, richer, higher, and fuller than this. We all must learn that in this universe God has chosen only one place, and that place is the church. God requires us to go to this place He has chosen. Spiritually speaking, we must destroy every place other than the church and every name other than the name of Christ. This means that we must destroy our culture and religious background....The places that we must destroy include our disposition, temperament, and habits. We must destroy everything that damages the oneness of the one new man.

Application to young working saints/graduate students

A "high place" in Deuteronomy means building of the worship center other than Jerusalem and elevating

something other than the name of the Lord. This brings division. Please recognize that there is divisive element in the fallen man's personality, custom, pride, quick temper, lust, and ambition. You should never be proud without appreciating God and never glorify yourself.

Rom. 1:21 Because though they knew God, they did not glorify Him as God or thank Him, but rather became vain in their reasonings, and their heart, lacking understanding, was darkened.

Please feel grateful to your environment that God has arranged for you. When you achieve something successful, please give thanks to God first. Making God as your God is relating to glorifying God and giving thanks to God. Therefore, you should train yourself to give thanks to God in your daily life. You can pray like the following; "Lord Jesus, thank you for the new morning. Lord Jesus, thank you for the daily food. Lord, thank you for my husband/wife. Thank you Lord because of my children/parents. Thank you Lord because of my boss/staff. Thank you Lord because I can gain a steady income from my job. Lord Jesus, it is you who made my project become successful. So I cannot glorify me by stealing credit from you. Lord, thank you for your blessing. Every people, situations, and things around are being arranged for my transformation. Lord Jesus, I thank you and glorify you." When you hear a small voice within you telling "you should give thanks to the Lord", give thanks to the Lord within no time. If you fail to give thanks at that moment, immediately a high place starts growing up within you. By being thankful, you can stand against Satan's work of division within you and destroy it. Then you can be saved from division and so be blessed by God.

1 Thes. 5:16 Always rejoice, **17** Unceasingly pray, **18** In everything give thanks; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.

Crucial Point(3): Our Christian faith is our belief composed of six basic items: the Bible, God, Christ, the work of Christ, salvation, and the church.

OL1: "The faith" in Jude is not subjective faith as our believing but objective faith as our belief, referring to the things we believe in, the contents of the New Testament as our faith, in which we believe for our common salvation.

OL2: Our Christian faith is composed of our belief concerning six basic items: The Bible, God, Christ, the work of Christ, salvation, and the church.

a) The Bible: We believe that the Bible, word by word, is divinely inspired by God, as the breath of God.

b) God is uniquely one but triune: The Godhead is distinctively three, but They are not three Gods separately. In the Old Testament and in the New Testament, the Bible tells us definitely that God is

one.

c)The person of Christ: Christ was the very God in eternity and became a man in time. His deity is complete, and His humanity is perfect. Hence, He is both God and man, possessing both divinity and humanity.

d)The work of Christ: Christ first became a man in incarnation and died on the cross for our redemption. Then He rose from the dead for our regeneration, ascended to the heavens to be the Lord of all, and will come back as the Bridegroom to the church and the King of kings to all the nations. These are the main aspects of the work of Christ.

e)Salvation: A sinner must repent to God and believe in Christ for forgiveness of sins, for redemption, for justification, and for regeneration in order that he may have the eternal life to become a child of God and a member of Christ.

f)The Church: The church, composed of all the genuine believers in Christ, as the Body of Christ, is universally one, and a local church as the expression of the Body of Christ is locally one—one city, one church....This does not mean, however, that a real believer in Christ who does not agree with one city, one church is not saved. He or she is saved, but there is something lacking, not for salvation but for the proper church life.

We have to fight the good fight of such a faith. We have to contend for such a faith. We have to teach and preach such a faith.

Application for young people & college students

The Bible: **2 Tim. 3:15** And that from a babe you have known the sacred writings, which are able to make you wise unto salvation through the faith which is in Christ Jesus. **16** All Scripture is God-breathed and profitable for teaching, for conviction, for correction, for instruction in righteousness, Since Bible is the word of God, it is quite different from all the books on earth. There is light in the Bible that frees you from the darkness. The Bible also benefits you by getting God's wisdom and fulfilling you. Read the Bible carefully from a young age.

Triune God: **2 Cor. 13:14** The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all. This passage of the Bible shows that the three deities of the Father, the Son, and the Spirit are not for the theological teachings, but for the enjoyment of man. Hallelujah! God is uniquely one but triune God, the Father, the Son, and the Spirit. That is because God himself reaches man and becomes the enjoyment of man.

The person and work of Christ: **John. 1:14** And the Word became flesh and tabernacle among us, full of grace and reality. **1 Cor. 15:45** the last Adam became a life-giving

Spirit. Christ is the one who was born as a god man by the conception of the Virgin Mary from the Holy Spirit. He died on the cross as a God-man, and the blood of his Son Jesus was shed, and the eternal redemption was completed. The reason is that the gate of life will be opened, and the believers will be given the life of God, making them many God-man. Many of these God-man are the components of the Body of Christ, and being built up, they greatly express God corporately. You must recognize, honor, and experience the work of Christ's person of God-man and Christ's incarnation, the cross, the resurrection, the ascension, and the return.

The Church life: A declaration of emergency due to coronavirus causes school closures, no part-time job, and having to stay at home. You probably are stressed out. At times like this, use LINE, WeChat videos, Zoom, and more to actively perform online meetings. Young people need to pursue the Lord with their spiritual partners. The Japanese government has recommended 70-80% reduction in human-to-human contact to control the coronavirus, and we are doing it. But thanks to the Lord. We can still supply, help and encourage each other through the Internet. It's not just you who are in trouble now, but everyone is in trouble. Let's enjoy and support each other at the internet meeting. On Friday night 8:00-9:00, we read about 2 chapters of the Deuteronomy from the Bible of Recovery version every week at LINE's Deuteronomy BSG with more than 20 brothers and sisters. Another group is reading an English life study together. Even if you can't physically meet, you can still enjoy by meeting online, and also save time.

Prayer: "Oh Lord Jesus, thank you for being able to read the Bible with partners in the church from my young age. In a restricted situation where I cannot leave the house, I will enjoy the Bible, the Word of God, with my partners and support each other. I need them, and they need me. We turn the difficult situation of coronaviruses into opportunities for us young people to move forward! Hallelujah! Praise the Lord!"

1107. Praise of the Lord – Remembrance of Him

1. We're gathered here, O Lord, as Thy one Body:
Though we be many, yet we all are one.
We share Thy life and own that we are members,
And thus within, in life we all are one.

(C)

There is one Body in this universe,
And we express it here on earth;
We stand as one in each locality
For all to see, for all to see.

2. There is one loaf, the symbol of Thy body:
'Twas broken so that all the saints may share.
We eat this bread and, as we are partaking,
Our actual oneness with all saints declare.
3. One bread, one cup are now upon the table,
Showing that we can be naught else but one.
Christ has redeemed us, made us His own Body:
What can we say but, "Amen, Lord, we're one!"
4. We stand as one, and cannot be divided,
Because our oneness is of Christ alone.
We eat as one: one loaf, one cup partaking,
And thus our oneness visibly is shown.
5. Oh, what a joy to have this blessed oneness!
We sense that Thou, O Lord, art satisfied;
And we too share this blissful satisfaction—
Sweet foretaste of the Bridegroom with His Bride.