God and Man

Speak the Same Things (Slide 1)

From our reading it seems that in Titus 2 Apostle Paul is not only emphasizing speaking the right things but practicing appropriate and uniform behavior so as not to stain the word of God.

1 Corinthians 1:10-13 (Slide 2)
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 (Slide 3) *the same judgment. 11 For it has been declared to me concerning you, my brethren, by those of Chloe's household, that there are contentions among you. 12 Now I say this, that each of you says, "I am of Paul," or* (Slide 4) *"I am of Apollos," or "I am of Cephas," or "I am of Christ." 13 Is Christ divided? Was Paul crucified for you? Or were you baptized in the name of Paul?*

Apostle Paul pleads with the church at Corinth because he knows what the result will be if they don't speak the same things. It will be divisive and contrary to God's design for the church.

*The **contentions** among the Brethren at Corinth were not necessarily the doctrine that these men taught, it was the men themselves.*

***Contentions** were based more on sentiment than anything else. Their sentiment is essentially leading their thoughts rather than the fact these men are unified in purpose under Christ.*

*This same reason for **contention** is still evident today in the resulting division we see in the various faiths within every community. It also exists in the Lord's church.*

People, led by emotion, have their favorite for a variety of reasons and tend to show favor to that one and what they preach over another. Even if two men teach or preach the same thing.

*Unfortunately, these strong feelings have caused division of the body. Thankfully, someone in the **household of Chloe** was alarmed enough to bring it to the attention of Apostle Paul before more damage could be done.*

There is enough to contend with from without let alone from within:

Acts 20:30 (Slide 5)

Also from among yourselves men will rise up, speaking perverse things, to draw away the disciples after themselves.

Some will depart from the faith:

1 Timothy 4:1 (Slide 6)
Now the Spirit expressly says that in latter times some will depart from the faith

*Apostle Paul, by "**expressly**,"* is saying these are the ***exact*** words of the Spirit and that is ***"exactly"*** what has happened.

Now I plead with you, brethren, by the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that you all <u>speak the same thing</u>, and that there be <u>no divisions</u> among you

Is Apostle Paul concerned that the 1st century church will fracture off into denominations? Is he concerned that people will follow men who are prominent in the church? Is it possible someone will come along who is charismatic and lead away those who are not satisfied with the simplistic message of the Gospel or do not have their spiritual roots in solid ground?

I believe yes on all accounts!

Two people or a group of people can hear or read the exact same thing but walk away with two or several different interpretations of what it means.

Just as it has always been, people are passionate about how they have been taught or the traditions in which they have developed their belief system. They are as sincere as we are in our beliefs.

Those passions and strong beliefs make it difficult in bringing them to the "whole counsel of God."

Apostle Paul knew that about his kinsmen.

Romans 10:1-2 (Slide 7)
Brethren, my heart's desire and prayer to God for Israel is that they may be saved. 2 For I bear them witness that they have a zeal for God, but not according to knowledge.

Despite that, he did not hold back from declaring the truth!

Acts 20:25-27 (Slide 8)
25 "And indeed, now I know that you all, among whom I have gone preaching the kingdom of God, will see my face no more. 26 Therefore I testify to you this day that I am innocent of the blood of all men. 27 For I

have not shunned to declare to you the whole counsel of God.

What is it that causes divisions?

James 4:1-3 (Slide 9)
[1] Where do wars and fights come from among you? Do they not come from your desires for pleasure that war in your members? [2] You lust and do not have. You murder and covet and cannot obtain. You fight and war. (Slide 10) *Yet you do not have because you do not ask. [3] You ask and do not receive, because you ask amiss, that you may spend it on your pleasures.*

I don't believe James is talking about major wars between nations. Afterall, Apostle Paul is preparing Timothy to be an evangelist and He will be dealing directly with the church.

Rather than an outside conflict it is an internal conflict within someone that spills over into a congregation. A body of believers.

The desire to have what you want creates a number of negative consequences, even leaving the church to find worship more personally satisfying.

Apostle Paul isn't saying that all personal desire is wrong. In fact, certain things are permissible to rigorously pursue…….the right way.

A career that provides and protects. Yet, not one that holds a place before God.

Some things are even expedient to prevent wrong.

1 Corinthians 7:8-9 (Slide 11)
8 Now to the unmarried and the widows I say: It is good for them to stay unmarried, as I do. 9 But if they cannot control themselves, they should marry, for it is better to marry than to burn with passion.

Nevertheless, when it comes to worship we cannot worship and to put ourselves first for we will be in error.

To speak the same things means we must strive for unity in spirit and worship.

Jesus prayed that all HIs followers be unified:

John 17:20-21 (Slide 12)
20 "I do not pray for these alone, but also for those <u>who will believe</u> in Me through their word; 21 that they all may be one, as You, Father, are in Me, and I in You;

that they also may be one in Us, that the world may believe that You sent Me.

How can we, those who believe in Jesus, be united in belief and speak the same thing?

Apostle Paul writing to Titus, a true son in our common faith said in:

Titus 1:10-16 (Slide 13)
10 For there are many insubordinate, both idle talkers and deceivers, especially those of the circumcision, 11 whose mouths must be stopped, who subvert whole households, teaching things which they ought not, for the sake of dishonest gain. 12 One of them, a prophet (Slide 14) *of their own, said, "Cretans are always liars, evil beasts, lazy gluttons." 13 This testimony is true. Therefore rebuke them sharply, that they may be sound in the faith, 14 not giving heed to Jewish fables and commandments of men who turn from the truth.* (Slide 15) *15 To the pure all things are pure, but to those who are defiled and unbelieving nothing is pure; but even their mind and conscience are defiled. 16 They profess to know God, but in works they deny Him, being abominable, disobedient, and disqualified for every good work.*

The early church dealt with individuals and groups who would not adhere to the Apostle's teaching. They were the "insubordinate, both idle talkers and deceivers."

Judaizers, "those of the circumcision" were prevalent trying to draw men away from the Way.

Mouths must be stopped! The elders and evangelists cannot forcibly remove someone who breaks the proper rhythm of worship but can expose their deception.

Titus 1:7-9 (Slide 16)
7 For a bishop (meaning elder/ overseer) must be blameless, as a steward of God, not self-willed, not quick-tempered, not given to wine, not violent, not greedy for money, 8 but hospitable, a lover of what is (Slide 17) *good, sober-minded, just, holy, self-controlled, 9 holding fast the faithful word as he has been taught, that he may be able, by sound doctrine, both to exhort and convict those who contradict.*

One of the most important tasks of the elders is to be sure the meat of the worship follows the Holy Truths of God's word.

Apostle Paul agrees with one of Crete's own prophet who says "Cretans are always liars, evil beasts, lazy gluttons." [13] This testimony is true."

Apostle Paul says ro Titus to expose Jewish fables and commandments of men who turn from the truth

Apostle Paul says lies and evil are a source used for gain for those "defiled and unbelieving. Nothing is pure." No deception is off limits for anyone pursuing sordid gain.

Apostle Paul warns again in:

Colossians 2:8 (Slide 18)
Beware lest anyone cheat you through philosophy and empty deceit, according to the tradition of men, according to the basic principles of the world, and not according to Christ.

Is it no wonder that we should <u>speak the same things</u>.

None of these things happen if we know the truth and follow it.

Invitation

We know that the church should universally teach that to be saved one must put on Christ through baptism. To be

baptized is how we make contact with the blood of Christ and express our faith in reenacting His death, burial and resurrection.

Have you been baptized for the remission of your sin? If not, don't delay arise and be baptized.

If you are in Christ but need prayer for any reason, please let us know.

Let your wish be known……

Reading

Titus 2

1 But as for you, speak the things which are proper for sound doctrine: 2 that the older men be sober, reverent, temperate, sound in faith, in love, in patience; 3 the older women likewise, that they be reverent in behavior, not slanderers, not given to much wine, teachers of good things— 4 that they admonish the young women to love their husbands, to love their children, 5 to be discreet, chaste, homemakers, good, obedient to their own husbands, that the word of God may not be blasphemed.

6 Likewise, exhort the young men to be sober-minded, 7 in all things showing yourself to be a pattern of good

works; in doctrine showing integrity, reverence,
incorruptibility, [8] sound speech that cannot be
condemned, that one who is an opponent may be
ashamed, having nothing evil to say of you.

[9] Exhort bondservants to be obedient to their own
masters, to be well pleasing in all things, not answering
back, [10] not pilfering, but showing all good fidelity, that
they may adorn the doctrine of God our Savior in all
things.

[11] For the grace of God that brings salvation has
appeared to all men, [12] teaching us that, denying
ungodliness and worldly lusts, we should live soberly,
righteously, and godly in the present age, [13] looking for
the blessed hope and glorious appearing of our great
God and Savior Jesus Christ, [14] who gave Himself for
us, that He might redeem us from every lawless deed
and purify for Himself His own special people, zealous
for good works.

[15] Speak these things, exhort, and rebuke with all
authority. Let no one despise you.

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