

PARK HEIGHTS CHURCH OF CHRIST

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Thus Saith the Lord

A DIVIDER

By Jeff Sweeten

Religious unity is a Divine plea. In a heart-rending setting and reaching beyond His own immediate circumstances, Jesus prayed not only for those in His company but for those in future generations. *"I do not pray for these alone, but also for those who will believe in Me through their word; **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 know that You sent Me**"* (John 17:20-21).

It is a fair question to ask: why do those who claim to believe in Christ, because of the Apostles teachings, manifest such disunity? It is fair to assume that this cacophony of confusion is not Christ's fault. He has all authority (Matthew 28:18) but to assert that the Word is so difficult to understand or impossible to rightly apply would be a defeated argument from it's introduction. Jesus is perfect; He made no mistakes, which includes His instructions. This leaves only one problem: people. But, why do people not embrace the unity for which Jesus prayed?

The "*simplicity that is in Christ*" is easily "*corrupted*" (2 Corinthians 11:3) when people simply refuse to accept what Jesus said; it really is that simple. I've often stated, concerning the incredulous arguments given for defending religious division, that one has to have professional help to misunderstand Jesus; and professional help is abundantly available. This unfortunate reality manifests itself when pride in eminence causes titled men to cling tenaciously to their religious status at the cost of unity (Matthew 23:5-7). Some simply prefer friendship to faith and will not love Jesus more than errant relationships (Matthew 10:37). I'm convinced that some see the truth, but also see the price they might have to pay to deny one's self and take up Christ's cross to follow Him (Matthew 16:24). So, upon hearing the truth of God's Word, they walk away "*very sorrowful*" (Luke 18:23), because the cost is too much.

Christian unity is possible because Christ would not pray so fervently for an impossibility. That being the case, there will be much to answer for in the judgment when facing Christ "*that each may receive the things done in the body, according to what he has done, whether good or bad*" (2 Corinthians 5:10). One shouldn't be a divider!

JOIN US ON SUNDAY AND WEDNESDAY!

SUNDAY: 9:30 a.m. Bible Study • 10:25 a.m. Morning Worship • 1:30 p.m. Bible Study

WEDNESDAY: 7:00 p.m. Bible Study • Contact the minister at 254-370-4130