One With God and His People

Tony Mauck · 2 Corinthians 10:5–6

INTRODUCTION

- It begins by asking a question. Why is there division?
- The world is divided. The religious world is divided. Christendom is divided. Believers within various denominations are divided. Brethren are divided.
- No, he says, that's not ultimately why we are divided.

1 Taking Every Thought Captive to the Obedience of Christ

2 Corinthians 10:5–6; Luke 9:23; Philippians 2:5

- We are destroying speculations. And every lofty thing raised up against the knowledge of God. We are taking every thought captive to the obedience of Christ.
- We are divided because we don't allow every thought to be taken captive to the obedience of Christ. We want our own ideas, our own thoughts to win the day.
- No hermeneutic can be successful unless we are first willing to relinquish our own thoughts and ideas and bring them under control of the Lord.
- We're not denying ourselves, we don't have the mind of Christ, and we are not seeking first his kingdom.

2 Self Gets in the Way

James 4:1–4; Galatians 5:19–23; 1 Corinthians 3:1–3

- First, destroy the selfish beast within and let Christ take us captive to bring every thought under obedience to him, then, just maybe, we'll begin to see the unity that we all claim to want.
- Eight of the 15 works of the flesh have to do with division or the inability of people to get along in loving harmony.
- Have we really died to self to live for Christ? Or are we carnal religionists?
- Paul said the problem of division in Corinth was carnality. Self gets in the way.

3 The Attitudes of Ephesians 4

Ephesians 4:1–3; Ephesians 4:15–16

- You need to walk worthy of the vocation wherewith you have been called. We'll not have any unity without that.
- With all humility and gentleness. Patience. Showing forbearance to one another in love.
- Endeavoring to keep the unity of the Spirit or to preserve the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace.
- Speaking the truth in love, growing up in all aspects unto him who is the head, even Christ, and the whole body supplying its part.

4 Live Beyond Ourselves: Make Me a Servant

John 13; 1 Corinthians 13:5; 1 Corinthians 7:33–34

- Ultimately, to fix any problem, we must work on ourselves. And ask this question. What thought have I not let Christ take captive today?
- We will never mature spiritually until we determine to live beyond ourselves, putting God and others before ourselves.
- Make me a servant. That's the key. And it's not about keeping score.
- Is that what the Lord modeled when he went around and washed the feet of every one of those disciples in John 13? Was he keeping score?
- As long as selfishness reigns, marriage will not be what God intended.

5 Proper Attitudes Give Rise to Unity

Galatians 5:22–23; Ephesians 2:10–22

- Proper attitudes give rise to unity with God and his people, and those things don't just happen.
- You've got to set your mind in the direction of the cultivation of these attitudes.
- You've got to cultivate the spirit, the fruit of the spirit that we read about in Galatians 5, 22 and 23.
- We are created in Christ Jesus for good works. Just hit me this morning that one of those things that's involved in that is the pursuit of unity.
- But now, in Christ Jesus, you who were formerly afar off have been brought near by the blood of Christ.

THE CHALLENGE

Have you done those things that bring a person into peace with God and union with him? A union made possible by him.

MY NOTES