Woven Together (Acts 4:32)

Tony Mauck · Colossians 3:12–15

INTRODUCTION

- I would gladly put up with those issues in this group than to not have them at all.

1 Fellowship With a Holy God and One Another

Romans 3:23; 1 Peter 1:22; 1 John 1:7

- When we talk about fellowship as Christians, it is an extremely rich term that first has to do amazingly with the fact that the likes of us can have a sharing with a perfect and holy God.
- That we can have this amazing fellowship that crosses every line and boundary and things that separate men in the world. That we can all come into one body in Christ.
- Our souls are purified in obedience to the truth unto an unfeigned love of the brethren. Our birth into Christ is unto this relationship, this fellowship with one another.
- If we walk in the light, as Jesus is in the light, we have fellowship one with another.

2 Conciliatory Attitudes

Colossians 3:12–15

- It's the idea of having attitudes that cause or promote a coming and staying together. A resolving of things that might be differences among us.
- Clothe yourselves with compassion and kindness and humility, gentleness, patience.
- We're going to have to bear with each other and forgive whatever grievances.
- Over all these virtues put on love, which binds them all together in perfect unity. And let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts.
- Not only do these have to be cultivated, they have to be monitored to make sure that we possess these attitudes.

3 It's Just a Grievance

- So often today, everything in the local church is rocking along just fine until one incident happens.
- It's not the promulgation or the propagation of error. It's a grievance. I have a grievance, therefore I'm done. That is not the fellowship to which we're called.
- They may need to see it. You may want them to see it. But they may not see it. And I need to let that be okay.
- It's okay to say, you know what? I overreacted there. I got a little too intense about that. I'm sorry.

4 To What Extent Can We Disagree?

Ephesians 4:3

- Endeavoring to keep the unity of the Spirit and the bond of peace means something. Endeavor. Give some effort toward.
- To what extent can we disagree and still maintain fellowship?
- Could it be possible that you're wrong about whatever conclusion you've drawn?
- So whatever conclusion they're really sticking to right now may not be their conclusion five years from now. And so we need to have a little bit of patience about that.

5 Some Non-Negotiable Beliefs and Practices

Acts 22:16; Galatians 5:4; Hebrews 12:14

- There are some non-negotiable beliefs and practices. That is, there's some things we have to agree on.
- The conclusions we draw about Jesus, who are the focal point of this religion that we're involved in, that's non-negotiable.
- So how you treat and regard scripture matters, what you believe about salvation matters.
- We cannot turn the blind eye to clearly immoral conduct.

6 Personal Conscience Versus Collective Participation

Romans 14:22

- We must allow some things to fall into the realm of personal conscience.
- In some of these areas, I can let you draw your conclusion. And you can let me draw my conclusion. And we can still have fellowship. But the problem is when it involves this collective participation.
- There's a difference between that and what we do collectively. Because that implicates my conscience.
- We can come to agreement about these corporate practices in a way that we know that this is clearly acceptable by the teaching of the New Testament.

THE CHALLENGE

We may not do it in one discussion. We may not do it in one phone call. But let's give some effort to it. Let's not break fellowship.

MY NOTES