

Message Outlines
for the Conference in Reston, Virginia
November 28—December 1, 1991

GENERAL SUBJECT: THE BODY OF CHRIST

Message Six

Division

Damaging

The Oneness of the Body

Scripture Reading: 1 Cor. 1:10-13; 3:3-4; 4:6; 11:17, 29-30, 19; 12:24-25; Eph. 4:2; Rom. 16:17;
Titus 3:10; Lev. 13:45-46; Num. 12:10-15.

- I. Divisions being among the Corinthians—1 Cor. 1:10:**
 - A. All not speaking the same thing.
 - B. Not being attuned in the same mind and in the same opinion.
 - C. Having, rather, jealousy and strife—1 Cor. 1:11; 3:3.
 - D. Making parties by saying, I am of Paul, I am of Apollos, I am of Cephas, and I am of Christ—1 Cor. 1:12.
- II. Such divisions being condemned by the apostle's teaching:**
 - A. Being fleshly and walking according to man—1 Cor. 3:3-4.
 - B. Is Christ divided? Was Paul crucified for you? Or were you baptized into the name of Paul?—1 Cor. 1:13.
 - C. Being puffed up on behalf of the one, against the other—1 Cor. 4:6.
- III. Such divisive ones coming together to take the Lord's table not for the better (not for profit) but for the worse (for loss)—1 Cor. 11:17:**
 - A. Not discerning the bread as a symbol of the Lord's physical body that needs to be regarded by them.
 - B. Not discerning the bread as a symbol of the Lord's mystical Body that requires them to keep the oneness of the Body of Christ.
 - C. Eating judgment to themselves—1 Cor. 11:29.
 - D. Because of this, many among them being weak and sick, and a number sleeping—1 Cor. 11:30.
- IV. Parties of division manifesting those in the church life who are approved—1 Cor. 11:19.**
- V. Having the same care for all the members to avoid division in the Body—1 Cor. 12:25.**
- VI. No base, no reason, no excuse, no justification, and no vindication for any kind of division.**
- VII. Always remember: there is no way for the members of the Body of Christ to be legitimately divided in the Body of Christ!**
- VIII. All problems can and should be solved through proper and adequate fellowship by praying together sincerely and thoroughly:**
 - A. By seeking the Lord's solution with an open spirit, a pure heart, a lowly mind, and a meek attitude—Eph. 4:2.
 - B. According to the teaching of the Scriptures properly interpreted, not understood by taking them out of context.
 - C. Without self-interest; the entire pursuit being for the Lord's glory and for the benefit of the Lord's recovery.
 - D. No parties or divisions formed for backing in partiality, threatening, and/or challenging others.
- IX. Dealing with divisive members:**
 - A. Turning away from division-makers—Rom. 16:17.
 - B. Rejecting factious, sectarian, members—Titus 3:10.
 - C. Practicing the quarantining of the lepers in typology—Lev. 13:45-46; Num. 12:10-15.