

CHRIST'S BIBLE FELLOWSHIP

Book of Romans: The Ministry of the Holy Spirit

Christian Doctrine Compendium Series: Sin, Justification, Sanctification, Reconciliation

"Guarding Against Divisive Influences: A Call to Unity and Sound Doctrine"

Romans 16:17-18 NKJV

Now I urge you, brethren, note those who cause divisions and offenses, contrary to the doctrine which you learned, and avoid them. [18] For those who are such do not serve our Lord Jesus Christ, but their own belly, and by smooth words and flattering speech deceive the hearts of the simple.

NOTES

Main Point:

Notes:

Things I need to pray about:

Discussion:

1. What warning does Paul give in Romans 16:17 about certain individuals within the church? Identify their characteristics (Proverbs 6:12-14, 2 Tim 3:1-7).
2. According to Romans 16:18, what tactics do these divisive individuals use to deceive the simple?
3. How does God feel about a Sower of discord (Proverbs 6:16-19)?
4. In the context of these verses, can a Sower of discord be a Christian? Discuss.
5. Can you reconcile Matthew 18:15 or Galatians 6:1 with Romans 16:18, Isaiah 5:20-21, and Malachi 2:17 in dealing with a "Sower of Discord" ? Why or why not?
6. Discuss practical ways in which we can guard against divisive influences and promote unity within the church, drawing insights from Romans 16:17-18.

Proverbs 6:12-14

A worthless person, a wicked man,
Walks with a perverse mouth;
He winks with his eyes,
He shuffles his feet,
He points with his fingers;
Perversity is in his heart,
He devises evil continually,
He sows discord.

2 Timothy 3:1-7

But know this, that in the last days perilous times will come: For men will be lovers of themselves, lovers of money, boasters, proud, blasphemers, disobedient to parents, unthankful, unholy, unloving, unforgiving, slanderers, without self-control, brutal, despisers of good, traitors, headstrong, haughty, lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God, having a form of godliness but denying its power. And from such people turn away! For of this sort are those who creep into households and make captives of gullible women loaded down with sins, led away by various lusts, always learning and never able to come to the knowledge of the truth.

Proverbs 6:16-19

These six things the LORD hates,
Yes, seven are an abomination to Him:
A proud look,
A lying tongue,
Hands that shed innocent blood,
A heart that devises wicked plans,
Feet that are swift in running to evil,
A false witness who speaks lies,
And one who sows discord among brethren.

Matthew 18:15

"Moreover if your brother sins against you, go and tell him his fault between you and him alone. If he hears you, you have gained your brother.

Galatians 6:1

Brethren, if a man is overtaken in any trespass, you who are spiritual restore such a one in a spirit of gentleness, considering yourself lest you also be tempted.

Romans 16:18

For those who are such do not serve our Lord Jesus Christ, but their own belly, and by smooth words and flattering speech deceive the hearts of the simple.

Isaiah 5:20-21

Woe to those who call evil good, and good evil;
Who put darkness for light, and light for darkness;
Who put bitter for sweet, and sweet for bitter!
Woe to those who are wise in their own eyes,
And prudent in their own sight!

Malachi 2:17

You have wearied the LORD with your words;
Yet you say,
"In what way have we wearied Him?"
In that you say,
"Everyone who does evil
Is good in the sight of the LORD,
And He delights in them,"
Or, "Where is the God of justice?"