Restoring The Church That Jesus Built

Readings: Luke 8:4-15 and 1 Timothy 3:14-15

**TRUTH is the basis for unity**

Unity was Jesus’ prayer. ***(John 17:20-21) "I ask not only on behalf of these, but also on behalf of those who will believe in me through their word, {21} that they may all be one. As you, Father, are in me and I am in you, may they also be in us, so that the world may believe that you have sent me.***

Same idea repeated in ***(Ephesians 4:1-3) I, therefore, the prisoner of the Lord, beseech you to walk worthy of the calling with which you were called, {2} with all lowliness and gentleness, with longsuffering, bearing with one another in love, {3} endeavoring to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace.***

***(1 Corinthians 1:10) Now I plead with you, brethren, by the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that you all speak the same thing, and that there be no divisions among you, but that you be perfectly joined together in the same mind and in the same judgment.***

**There cannot have unity with Independent Thinking regarding the religious differences in the world. The original plan did not have a diversity of beliefs.”**

***(Ephesians 4:4-6) There is one body, and one Spirit, even as you are called in one hope of your calling; {5} One Lord, one faith, one baptism, {6} One God and Father of all, who is above all, and through all, and in you all.***

**Understanding?**

***(Ephesians 3:4) by which, when you read, you may understand my knowledge in the mystery of Christ),***

Problem: People don’t **want** to follow the rules alike. ***(John 8:32) And you shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free.*** Was Jesus lying?

The bible was inspired for our benefit ***(1 Corinthians 2:4-13) And my speech and my preaching was not with enticing words of man's wisdom, but in demonstration of the Spirit and of power: {5} That your faith should not stand in the wisdom of men, but in the power of God***... [Skip to verse 12] ...{12} ***Now we have received, not the spirit of the world, but the spirit which is of God; that we might know the things that are freely given to us of God. {13} Which things also we speak, not in the words which man's wisdom teaches, but which the Holy Ghost teaches; comparing spiritual things with spiritual.***

If we all went by the book, what name should we have? ***(Acts 11:26) ... a whole year they assembled themselves with the church, and taught much people. And the disciples were called Christians first in Antioch.***

We need to restore this name only. (***Romans 16:16) Salute one another with an holy kiss. The churches of Christ salute you.***

**Changes Must be made**

Change in intellect by faith. ***(Hebrews 11:6) But without faith it is impossible to please him: for he that comes to God must believe that he is, and that he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him.***

Change in our concept of Christ. ***(John 20:30-31) And many other signs truly did Jesus in the presence of his disciples, which are not written in this book: {31} But these are written, that ye might believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God; and that believing ye might have life through his name***.

We need a change of will - that’s repentance. ***(2 Corinthians 7:10) For godly sorrow works repentance to salvation not to be repented of: but the sorrow of the world works death. .***

Confession is changing your allegiance & making it known. ***(1 Timothy 6:12) Fight the good fight of faith, lay hold on eternal life, whereunto thou art also called, and have professed a good profession before many witnesses.***

**final change in restoration – Change of State**

***(Galatians3: 26-27) For you are all the children of God by faith in Christ Jesus. {27} For as many of you as have been baptized into Christ have put on Christ.***

***(Romans 6:3) Know you not, that so many of us as were baptized into Jesus Christ were baptized into his death?***

***(Galatians 6:1) Brethren, if a man be overtaken in a fault, you which are spiritual, restore such a one in the spirit of meekness; considering thyself, lest thou also be tempted.***