

PARK HEIGHTS CHURCH OF CHRIST

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Thus Saith the Lord

SAVAGE DISUNITY

By Jeff Sweeten

In the early 1800's, a movement to unify all believers in Christ was afoot. Multiple preachers from multiple denominations realized the damage their loyalties to party-ism and creeds had perpetrated on an infant nation that aspired to be, in all things, independent. The ecclesiastical strife, old school loyalties and repression of free religious thought had become a hindrance to spiritual growth.

One enlightening observation came from a "savage" (a not-so-kind reference to the indigenous peoples of America) whom many a missionary, trekking westward, had attempted to convert to some brand of "Christianity." An old chieftain of a local tribe, speaking kindly to the missionary, pointed out his hypocrisy by saying:

"Brother, we understand that your religion is written in a book. You say that there is but one way to worship and serve the Great Spirit. If there be but one religion, why do you white people differ so much about it? Why not all agree as you can all read the book?"

Indeed, out of the mouth of "savage" babes! The question is as relevant today as it was in 1805. Why is it that the division exists. Here are a few obvious reasons:

(1) People call themselves by religious names found nowhere in the Book. One quick resolution for division would be to throw away all the unscriptural names and claim only one name, Christian (Acts 11:26; 26:28; 1 Peter 4:16).

(2) Religious leaders, drop all the arrogant titles that you assign yourselves to segregate your special religious "calling." God calls all to the work of the church (1 Corinthians 1:26; Ephesians 4:1; 1 Thessalonians 4:7).

(3) Use the Bible, only, as the sole source of religious guidance. It is odd that so many claim to follow the Bible but follow their creed books, which deny, contradict, add to or take away from the Bible (Deuteronomy 4:2; Revelation 22:18).

(4) Claim salvation only through the pattern of New Testament examples (Acts 2:38; 8:36-38; 16:31-33; 19:1-5). It's simplicity is easily understood.

(5) As Christians do not sacrifice goats on Saturday (Leviticus 3:12), the elements of our worship on the first day of the week (Acts 20:7) are simply: praying, preaching the Word, the Lord's Supper, contributing to the Lord's work (Acts 2:42) and singing (Ephesians 5:19).

Jesus prayed for unity (John 17:20-21). Religious disunity is savage (1 Corinthians 1:10)!

JOIN US ON SUNDAY AND WEDNESDAY!

SUNDAY: 9:30 a.m. Bible Study • 10:25 a.m. Morning Worship • 1:30 p.m. Bible Study

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