

Isms

Part One - Schisms

There will always be schisms in a fallen world but among believers, it should not be so.

1 Corinthians 12:25-26

God's purpose was that the body should not be divided but rather that all of its parts should feel the same concern for each other. 26 If one part of the body suffers, all the other parts share its suffering. If one part is praised, all the others share in its happiness.

There will always be a necessary schism between children of light and children of darkness.

Matthew 10:34

“Do not suppose that I have come to bring peace to the earth. I did not come to bring peace, but a sword.”

2 Corinthians 6:14

Do not be yoked together with unbelievers. For what do righteousness and wickedness have in common? Or what fellowship can light have with darkness?

Luke 5:31

Jesus answered them, “It is not the healthy who need a doctor, but the sick.”

We escape schisms through our union in Christ.

John 17:21

I pray that they will all be one, just as you and I are one - as you are in me, Father, and I am in you. And may they be in us so that the world will believe you sent me.

Five Reasons to Unite:

1. United, we provide each other with strength.

Ecclesiastes 4:9-12

Two are better than one, because they have a good return for their work: 10 If one falls down, his friend can help him up. But pity the man who falls and has no one to help him up! 11 Also, if two lie down together, they will keep warm. But how can one keep warm alone? 12 Though one may be overpowered, two can defend themselves.

2. United, we are a greater threat to the enemy.

Deuteronomy 32:30

One Can put a thousand to flight, two can put ten thousand to flight...

3. United, we provide our greatest witness to the world.

John 13:35

“By this, all men will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another.”

4. United, we are assured an audience with God.

Matthew 18:20

“For where two or three come together in my name, there am I with them.”

5. United, we receive answers to prayer.

Matthew 18:19

“Again, I tell you that if two of you on earth agree about anything you ask for, it will be done for you by my Father in heaven.”

We have a responsibility to stop a schism before it gets started.

Romans 12:18

Do everything possible on your part to live in peace with everybody.

Matthew 5:23-24

“So if you are presenting a sacrifice at the altar in the Temple and you suddenly remember that someone has something against you, 24 leave your sacrifice there at the altar. Go and be reconciled to that person. Then come and offer your sacrifice to God.”

Matthew 18:15

“If another believer sins against you, go privately and point out the offense. If the other person listens and confesses it, you have won that person back.”

Allowing schisms is a form of insanity.