

mar 15

have we become too tribal

"that they all may be one, as You, Father, are in Me, and I in You; that they also may be one in Us, that the world may believe that You sent Me." john 17:21

setting aside all those who believe in other gods, there are so many denominations and doctrines that even a true child of God would be confused over what to believe. we have our own pharisees and sadducees today. we have cessationist and calvainist with their "tulip" doctrine. if pre-election is guaranteed, why in the world would Jesus command us to go into all the world and preach the gospel. and, i for one, would not want to live in a world were God had ceased all His operating in all His power and glory. God is limited only by our unbelief.

i may never walk again, but i believe everyday for it. i may have a growing list of unanswered prayer, but i will never stop believing God answers prayer. i could pray for a thousand to be healed and never see one, but i will never stop believing God still heals. my bible says: "Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today, and forever." heb 13:8 "heaven and earth will pass away, but My words will by no means pass away." matt 24:35 "it is the Spirit who gives life; the flesh profits nothing. the words that I speak to you are spirit, and they are life." john 6:63 i choose to believe that Spirit and to walk in it. "however, when He, the Spirit of truth, has come, He will guide you into all truth; for He will not speak on His own authority, but

whatever He hears He will speak; and He will tell you things to come." john 16:13

many have ventured too far in either direction. grace and truth! they must both walk together. one cannot usurp the other. "who also made us sufficient as ministers of the new covenant, not of the letter but of the Spirit; for the letter kills, but the Spirit gives life." 2 cor 3:6 search the scriptures and hold in your heart what the Spirit reveals to you. "do not be carried about with various and strange doctrines. for it is good that the heart be established by grace." heb 13:9 scripture alone must be the final authority.

Jesus prayed that we be one, even as He and the Father are One. i look around today at all the dissension in the body of Christ and i ask myself if this prayer will ever be answered. the fact is, there is only one true church of Jesus Christ and it isn't catholic or protestant or charismatic. i heard someone say the other day: "there is a dead church, there is an apostate church, and there is a sleeping church."

some are blatantly apparent. they are actively working to further the works of the enemy. others are tares, surreptitiously planted to distort and distract; to cause schism in the body. "these are spots in your love feasts, while they feast with you without fear, serving only themselves." jude 1:12 then we have the sleeping church. yes, scripture says all would be sleeping. "but while the bridegroom was delayed, they all slumbered and slept." matt 25:5 sleeping though they may be, i believe they are all united in one truth - the simplicity and purity of devotion to Christ.

the tribes of israel were under the law. we are the new covenant - under grace and truth; united in Christ. "now i say this, that each of you says, 'i am of Paul,' or 'i am of Apollos,' or 'i am of cephas,' or 'i am of Christ.' is Christ divided? was Paul crucified for you?" 1 cor 1:12-13

"for i determined not to know anything among you except Jesus Christ and Him crucified." 1 cor 2:2 oh, the simplicity and purity of devotion to Christ. i pray we all grasp that truth today and value our divisions and differences for what they are; merely stepping stones leading us to Christ; the be-all and end-all.

"now when all things are made subject to Him, then the Son Himself will also be subject to Him who put all things under Him, that God may be all in all." 1 cor 15:28