**SOLVING CHURCH PROBLEMS [A]**

**1 Corinthians 1:9, 10**

**INTRODUCTION:**

1. Problems in the church are ***NOT*** something new.

 A. Although the church was a few years old, Christians were beginning to divide up.

 B. Men have always had a tendency to follow after other men, than stay with the Bible.

 1. 1st & 2nd Corinthians deals with various types of problems.

 2. 1st & 2nd Thessalonians were written refuting problems of the 2nd coming of Christ.

2. As [we] grow in the Lord’s church, [we] also must be aware of the devil's dissatisfaction.

 A. He will do **ALL** he can to disrupt the harmony of the church.

 1. This will be challenged by problems within the church (Ac 20:29, 30; 1 Tim 4:1 – 3).

 B. History reveals the major disruptive problems to plague the church come from within.

 1. More churches have been torn apart from within, than from without.

3. So, as [we] speak of growing in the Lord’s church, [we] must also speak of the problems.

 A. ***NO*** need to develop a plan to grow, if [we] do ***NOT*** know how to deal with the problems.

**BODY:**

**1. SOME CAUSES OF CHURCH PROBLEMS**

 A. Ignorance of God’s Word (often arise because of a particular subject).

 1. Ignorance of the Bible can be rectified (2 Tim 2:15; 3:15-17; 1 Pet 2:1, 2).

 B. Lack of Zeal. Indifference to the church is indifference to Christ.

 1. The church at Laodicea was indifferent (Rev 3:14 – 17).

 A. They were counseled by the Lord and told what to do (Rev 3:18).

 B. Paul exhorted the Roman Christians to be zealous (Rom 12:1, 11).

 C. Paul issued an exhortation to the church at Corinth (1 Cor 15:58).

 C. Desire of Popularity (unscriptural practices introduced into the church).

 1. It is NEVER justified in doing wrong to please men (Ac 4:19, 20; 5:29; Gal 1:10).

 D. Envy and Jealousy

 1. Envy is directed toward someone who has certain things that are wanted.

 2. The word “jealous” is defined as “Suspiciously watchful; Distrustful” [***WNCD***].

 3. The Bible describes God as being a “jealous God” (Deu 4:24).

 A. He demands exclusive devotion and intolerant of any *god* MAN may select.

 4. The “jealousy” in man, which is commonly used, is poisonous to destruction.

 A. This causes people to be “suspiciously watchful” of another in the home/church.

 5. People have been so jealous of others, they “turn green” with this poison.

 6. Overcoming Envy and Jealousy: (Pro 14:30; Mt 7:12; Rom 12:9 – 16; Gal 5:13-26).

**2. PEACE PRESERVING ATTITUDES (Rom 12:16)**

 A. Impartiality: perhaps, this would eliminate many church problems (Jas 2:1 – 9).

 B. Lowliness/humility (desire to be of the greatest service to others).

**3. PEACE PRESERVING DUTIES (Rom 12:17)**

 A. Live honorably in the sight of all by peace, love and good-will (2 Cor 8:21; Heb 13:18).

 1. When Christians devour one another, it causes the hearts of people outside the church

 to be filled with prejudice and contempt toward the body of Christ.

 A. There is nothing more soul-disturbing than professed Christian’s biting, hating,

 devouring, despising and hurling evil, cruel and slanderous epithets at each other.

**CONCLUSION:**

1. As Christians, [our] ultimate concern is winning souls to the Lord.

 A. To achieve this, appropriate behaviors are utilized how to treat one another in Christ.

 1. Petty problems (and pettiness) have caused far too many problems in the church.

 A. 1 Cor 1:13; Rom 14:19; Col 3:15