**SOLVING CHURCH PROBLEMS [B]**

**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.

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

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

**BODY:**

**1. SOME CAUSES OF CHURCH PROBLEMS**

 A. Forcing one's opinion upon others (1 Pet 5:1-3).

 1. Great care must be exercising the difference between matters of faith and opinion.

 A Matters of **FAITH** are backed by the authority of God.

 B. Human opinion has ***NO*** greater authority than the mind in which it originated.

 2. An example might be an outspoken member of the church believe theirs is BEST.

 A. Solving church problems: How does **FAITH** come? (Rom 10:17).

 B. How do opinions come? (2 Kgs 5:11; Ac 26:9).

 C. Acronym [**J** **O** **Y**] ~ **J**esus, **O**thers, **Y**ourself (comprehension for enforcement).

 B. Holding to traditions of men.

 1. Often those moving to another congregation insist things be done as “back home”.

 A. This attitude will be addressed with some opposition.

 1. One may become contentious and serious, internal problems arise.

 2. Some will cause problems opposing any changes in the order of worship.

 3. Sadly mistaken if believing only denominations hold to traditions of men.

 4. Traditions have a way of growing in importance to those who hold them.

 2. Solving church problems: How did the Pharisees/Scribes void the Word (Mt 15:1-9)?

 A. [We] must avoid this kind of attitude (Col 2:8).

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

 A. Impartiality (Rom 12:16a). This would eliminate many church problems.

 1. There is the need to treat all alike, regardless of their station in LIFE.

 A. Some want nothing to do with people unless they are influential (Jas 2:1 – 9).

 2. This would be a harmonious relationship between members in all phases of the work.

 B. Dependence upon divine wisdom (Rom. 12:16c). Self-conceit breaks the Spirit of unity.

 1. Feelings of superiority isolates from others causing demands in matters of judgment.

 2. Seek to serve with humility in a quiet and unassuming manner (Jas 3:13 – 18).

**3. PEACE PRESERVING DUTIES (Rom 12:17-21)**

 A. Endeavor to live peaceably with all men (Rom 12:18)

 1. [We] can “infer” an emphasis on *possible* involving you and I (in this passage).

 2. The Christian's responsibility is making an attempt to live peaceably ***NO*** matter what.

 A. Others may be of an unforgiving, unapologizing disposition making it difficult, if

 ***NOT*** impossible, to be at peace.

 3. Christians are ***NOT*** guiltless until exhausting every possible means to bring about reconciliation (Mt 18:21, 22).

 A. If every professed Christian heeded this, church quarrels would disappear.

**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