**SOLVING CHURCH PROBLEMS [C]**

**1 Corinthians 1:9, 10**

**INTRODUCTION:**

1. 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. Selfishness.

 1. Many times good people have caused problems because of a selfish desire.

 A. Sneaky, underhanded, behind-the-back methods have been used to get one's way.

 B. These tactics are unworthy of anything bearing the name of Christianity.

 2. Christians must forget self for the good of others, progress of Christ's and salvation.

 3. Solving church problems: (Mt 16:24; 2 Cor 8:5; Php 2:1 – 11).

 B. Desire for the preeminence: study of Diotrephes (3 John 9, 10).

 1. A common weakness of man is his love of power.

 A. Power is like money (the more one has, the more one wants).

 1. People seem to undergo a change in personality after being placed in a

 position of influence and leadership in the church.

 A. Those who were quiet and unassuming become dogmatic, egotistical and

 dictatorial, if given a little recognition by the church.

 2. If preachers, song leaders, deacons, treasurers or elders begin to think of their positions from the standpoint of power/authority instead of humble service,

 [we] are dangerous to the cause of Christ.

 2. Solving church problems:

 A. Only One has the preeminence in all things to the church (Col 1:18).

 B. The qualities of character curing the desire of preeminence

 1. Rom 12:3; Heb 12:28, 29; Jas 1: 9 – 11; 4:6; 1 Pet 5:3.

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

 A. Lowliness/humility [Rom 12:16b]. Do ***NOT*** seek the highest honors in the church.

 1. One’s desire is to be of the greatest service to others (Eph 4:2; Php 2:3; Col 3:12).

 2. Perhaps nothing can do more to sow the seeds of division/discord [selfish ambition].

 A. As Christians [we] should be:

 1. Builders ***NOT*** breakers / Givers ***NOT*** getters / Workers ***NOT*** “wanters”

 2. Producers ***NOT*** parasites / Docile ***NOT*** dictatorial

 3. A sterling Christian character is ***NOT*** always in the limelight; more often secluded.

 A. It is far more important what one is than where (society perspective).

 1. A rose covered with dust in the garden of a poverty, stricken home is just as

 sweet one in a well-dressed park.

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

 1. Overcome evil with good (Rom 12:19 – 21).

 A. There are a number of ways of responding to the treatment received from others:

 1. Return: evil for evil / good for evil / evil for good / good for good.

 2. If [we] return evil for evil it: Makes two evils instead of one.

 A. Increases the evil/inflaming their hatred/drives the wedge [separation] deeper.

 3. Anytime the evil in others kindles wrong passions in [us], causing [us] to do

 ungodly things, [we] are being overcome with evil (Rom 12:21).

 4. Our obligation toward our enemies is ***NOT*** just to abstain from vengeance.

 A. Instead [we] are to treat that individual with good deeds (Mt 5:44).

 B. The “heaping coals of fire on the head” of enemies is ***NOT*** the object, **BUT** the result of returning good for evil (Rom 12:20).