

# Lifting Up The STANDARD

“When the enemy shall come in like a flood, the Spirit of the LORD shall lift up a standard against him” (Isaiah 59:19).

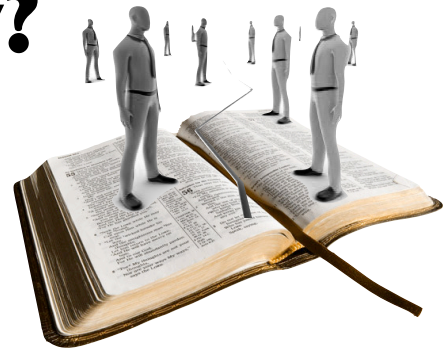


Challenging And Encouraging God's Remnant To Remain Faithful

Issue 22

## Why The Disunity?

“Behold, how good and how pleasant it is for brethren to dwell together in unity!”  
Psalm 133:1



**What is the main reason for disunity among sincere Christian leaders.** I have put this question to many people and have received various answers. One suggested the problem rests in the adoption of the party-line of the particular independent group one belongs to. Another suggested some refuse to preach “the whole council of God” because they don’t like confrontation. Others suggested having a preferred interpretation of a Scripture, influence of friends, error that has gone without rebuke, silence which always gives consent, fear of something, and pride were high on the list of reasons for disunity.

**First, we will give a definition of terms in this article.**

**By leaders,** we are referring to men who are called by God to the ministry.

**By sincere,** we will use the dictionary definition which is, “free from pretense or deceit.” A pretense is “attempting to make something that is not the case appear as true.” To be deceitful is to, “deceive someone by concealing or misrepresenting the truth.”

**By disunity,** we are referring to a disagreement that does not necessarily lead to a conflict. We can contend for the truth without being contentious. There will be times when one Christian leader will need to separate from another Christian leader in order to be consistent with what he believes; however, the Bible says, “Only by pride cometh contention” (Proverbs 13:10).

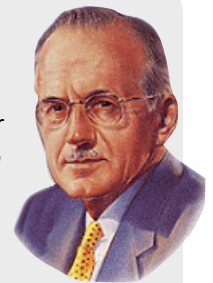
In this article, we will deal with the disunity that exists between **sincere Christian leaders** who differ concerning what they honestly believe is “acceptable unto the Lord” (Ephesians 5:10).

We are not attempting in this article to determine who is right and who is wrong concerning any issue, we are attempting to discern **why** sincere Christian leaders differ.

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**A. W. Tozer said,**

*Has it ever occurred to you that one hundred pianos all tuned to the same fork are automatically tuned to each other? They are of one accord by being tuned, not to each other, but to another standard to which each one must individually bow. So one hundred worshipers met together, each one looking away to Christ, are in heart nearer to each other than they could possibly be, were they to become 'unity' conscious and turn their eyes away from God to strive for closer fellowship.”*



A.W.Tozer



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## We Have A Promise From The Lord

**John 16:13** says,

*“Howbeit when he, the Spirit of truth, is come, he will guide you into all truth.”*

**“All truth” is not some truth it is “all truth.”** The Lord promised the Holy Spirit would guide us into “all truth;” however, we need to ask ourselves the question do I honestly want the truth if it proves I have been wrong about an issue? Not every one wants the truth. Consider the people referred to in the following Scriptures.

**First Timothy 4:3,** *“them which believe and know **the truth.**”*

**Second Timothy 2:18,** those who, *“concerning **the truth** have erred.”*

**Second Timothy 3:7** some, never, *“come to the knowledge of **the truth.**”*

**Second Timothy 3:8** those who, *“resist **the truth.**”*

**Second Timothy 4:4** some, *“turn away their ears from **the truth.**”*

**Titus 1:14,** *“men, that turn from the truth.”*

**Hebrews 10:26** some, *“sin wilfully”* rejecting *“the knowledge of **the truth.**”*

**James 5:19** those who, *“err from **the truth**”*

**First Peter 1:22** those who were, *“obeying **the truth** through the Spirit.”*

**First John 1:6** those who, *“do not **the truth.**”*

In Daniel 7:19 we read Daniel said, *“I would know the truth.”* In Daniel 11:2 the Lord said, *“And now will I shew thee the truth.”* Daniel was sincere about knowing the truth before God revealed it to him.

**Again, we need to honestly answer this question.** Do I really want to know the truth concerning the issues of our day if the truth proves I have been wrong concerning the issue? Do I really want to know the truth if the truth will get me in trouble with my peers? We sing “Dare To Be A Daniel” in the light of going into the den of lions; however, to dare to be a Daniel is to dare to honestly want to know the truth because knowing the truth and living by it, is what caused Daniel to end up in the den of lions.

### Is It A Problem of Understanding And Comprehending?

For example the following verse contains thirty-three words. Thirty of them are one syllable words. One might assume a verse like this would be easy to understand.

#### Ezekiel 39:18

*Ye shall eat the flesh of the mighty, and drink the blood of the princes of the earth, of rams, of lambs, and of goats, of bullocks, all of them fatlings of Bashan.*

Thirty, one syllable words like, *“Ye shall eat the flesh of the mighty, and drink the blood of the princes”* are easily understood; however, comprehending the meaning of this verse is entirely a different thing. Obviously, in order to comprehend the meaning of Ezekiel 39:18, some very extensive study is necessary; however, we have the promise that the Holy Spirit will guide us into the truth about this verse, and any verse, if we let Him guide us.

**C.H. Spurgeon said,**

*“On all hands we hear cries for unity in this and unity in that; but in our mind the main need of this age is not compromise but conscientiousness, 'First pure, then peaceable.' It is easy to cry 'A confederacy,' but that union that is not based on the truth of God is rather a conspiracy than a communion. Charity by all means: but honesty also. Love of course, but love to God as well as love to men, and love of truth as well as love of union. It is exceedingly difficult in these times to preserve one's fidelity before God and one's fraternity among men. Should not the former be preferred to the latter if both cannot be maintained? We think so”* (The Sword and Trowel, April 1887, p. 196, as cited in C.H. Spurgeon and the Modern Church, by R.J. Sheehan, p. 22).



C.H Spurgeon



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### Concerning End Time Issues

Concerning the issues of our day we cannot understand what God's Word says about any issue without an extensive study concerning the issue. Let us not think that a forty minute college class in a Bible college or a few minutes reading a Bible commentary will give us the truth about any issue or Bible doctrine.

Since the truth is available and we have so much disunity about what the truth is, we must conclude that someone does not understand the truth and someone is not discerning the truth. God does not have a different truth for different people. Someone is right and someone is wrong.

### Get Understanding

#### **Proverbs 4:7,**

*"With all thy getting get **understanding**."*

The Hebrew word translated understanding here has been translated "meaning" in Daniel 8:15.

#### **Proverbs 4:5,**

*"Get wisdom, get **understanding**."*

#### **Proverbs 16:16,**

Get **understanding** rather than "silver!"

#### **Psalms 119:104,**

*"Through thy precepts I get **understanding**: therefore I hate every false way."*

### Get Discernment

#### **Second Samuel 14:17,**

*"...**discern** good and bad."*

#### **Second Samuel 19:35,**

*"**discern** between good and evil?"*

#### **First Kings 3:9,**

*"that I may **discern** between good and bad."*

#### **First Kings 3:11,**

*"...hast asked for thyself understanding to **discern**."*

#### **Ezra 3:13,**

*"...the people could not **discern**."*

#### **Ezekiel 44:23,**

*"And they shall teach my people the difference between the holy and profane, and cause them to **discern** between the unclean and the clean."*

#### **Jonah 4:11,**

*"persons that cannot **discern**."*

#### **Malachi 3:18,**

*"Then shall ye return, and **discern** between the righteous and the wicked, between him that serveth God and him that serveth him not."*

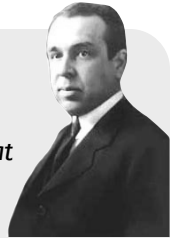
#### **Matthew 16:3,**

*"O ye hypocrites, ye can **discern** the face of the sky; but can ye not **discern** the signs of the times?"*

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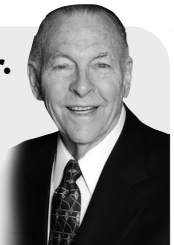
## Quotable Quotes

### J. Gresham Machen Said,



*"Again, men tell us that our preaching should be positive and not negative, that we can preach the truth without attacking error. But if we follow that advice we shall have to close our Bible and desert its teachings. The New Testament is a polemic book almost from beginning to end...It is when men have felt compelled to take a stand against error that they have risen to the really great heights in the celebration of the truth" (What Is Christianity, as cited in Biblical Separation, by Ernest Pickering, p. 97).*

### John Whitcomb Jr. Said,



*"Diversity and division is infinitely more precious than a satanic unity. Satan wants unity in what? – in error. God would infinitely prefer division because of truth."*

*"You say, 'We want unity.' Oh, really? What kind of unity? 'We want all the churches to get together.' You mean in error, in confusion, in heresy? That is, dear friends, the ecumenical movement of our hour, in which all the great denominations and all the great church leaders are becoming more and more unified." (from Human Races, a message delivered at Indian Hills Community Church, Lincoln, Nebraska, Fall of 1984).*



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**Luke 12:65,**

“Ye hypocrites, ye can **discern** the face of the sky and of the earth; but how is it that ye do not **discern** this time?”

**Hebrews 5:14,**

“But strong meat belongeth to them that are of full age, even those who by reason of use have their senses exercised to **discern** both good and evil.”

**Since we have been promised that we can be guided into “all truth.”** And, since we can get *understanding* and *discernment* and since we have so much disunity between sincere Christians we must conclude that some sincere Christian leaders do not have *understanding* and *discernment* concerning some of our end-time issues.

**Let’s take the music issues as an example.** Someone is right and someone is wrong. In determining the truth we must determine not to choose sides but to choose truth. How can I know the truth about music? The answer is very simple. We need to study the subject from the Bible.

There are hundreds of verses in the Word of God concerning music. When God created the world, the morning stars sang together and all the angels shouted for joy (Job 38:7). From early in Genesis to the song of the redeemed in God's heavenly city, music fills the Scriptures.

**To consider only a few references we could study...**

1. The songs of Moses.
2. The song of Deborah and Barak.
3. The music of David’s harp.
4. The songs of deliverance.
5. The over one thousand songs written by Solomon.
6. The music in the Tabernacle.
7. The music used when they moved the Ark.
8. The songs of thanks.
9. The four thousand member choir.
10. The songs of King Jehoshaphat’s choir.
11. Hezekiah’s songs of worship.
12. The many skilled musicians.
13. The singers who were exempted from paying tax.
14. The music at the dedication of the Temple.
15. The singing in Heaven.
16. Stringed instruments.
17. Singing to God the songs of praise.
18. Singing the new song.
19. Singing by the rivers of Babylon.
20. The music when Nebuchadnezzar attempted to worship.
21. When singing is turned to weeping.

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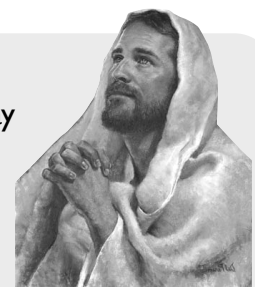
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“That they may be one, even as we are one”  
(John 17:22)



**Audio Message Series - Check Here**

**“Behold, how good and how pleasant it is for brethren to dwell together in unity!”**

(Psalm 133:1)





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22. The hymn Jesus sang together with His disciples.
23. Paul and Silas singing in the dungeon.
24. When the 144,000 sing.

Again, concerning the music issue, someone is right and someone is wrong. Someone has understanding and someone does not. Someone has discernment and someone does not.

By way of example I checked David Cloud's site and typed in music in the articles section. I found he has at the time of this writing he had 1000 articles about music. Under the "audio" section he had nine sermons about music. In the "video" section he had two complete video series concerning music. In the "ebook" series" he has two ebooks available on the subject. All of the information offered on Brother Cloud's site is saturated with Scripture to support his position.

I checked several of the "fundamentalists" sites who oppose the position David Cloud has on music and the only thing I could find was the promotion of their musical CDs. One does not have to be too swift to determine who has done his homework concerning the subject of music.

**Again, we must not choose sides we must choose truth.**

### Buying And Selling Truth

**Proverbs 23:23 says,**

*"Buy the truth, and sell it not; also wisdom, and instruction, and understanding."*

The reason we have disunity in our ranks is because so few want to pay the price for the truth. The Bible says, "much study is a weariness of the flesh" (Ecclesiastes 12:12). The difference between those who have *understanding* and *discernment* and those who do not is **study**.

**For example,**

If I have a problem with my computer I will need to call someone who knows about computers. I could have spent the last fifty years studying about computers; however, I have not done that, and therefore I do not know how to fix computer problems. I could have spent the last fifty years selling computers and I still would not know anything about how to fix one.



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John MacArthur recently hosted a **D. Cloud** conference with the title of **"Strange Fire: The Danger of Offending the Holy Spirit With Counterfeit Worship."**

It is an important warning against the charismatic movement, but the strange fire has already infiltrated MacArthur's camp and ultimately, therefore, he will lose the war. In his opening remarks at the conference MacArthur said,

*"The charismatic movement continually dishonors God in its false forms of worship. It dishonors the Father and Son, but most specifically, the Holy Spirit. Many things are attributed to the Holy Spirit that actually dishonor him. ... God is not to be trifled with. It is dangerous to offer strange fire, corrupt worship."*

That is exactly right, but one of the most effective aspects of the charismatic movement, one of the things most responsible for creating the charismatic "experience" and building its heretical unity, is contemporary worship music. The late Jerry Huffman, editor of the *Calvary Contender*, observed that CCM could stand for Contemporary Charismatic Music, because it originates with charismatics. We have documented this extensively in *The Directory of Contemporary Worship Musicians*, available as a free eBook from [www.wayoflife.org](http://www.wayoflife.org).

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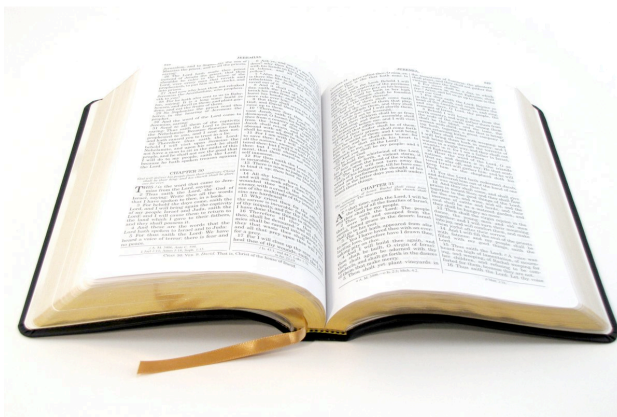
A pastor can sincerely spend his life convincing people to trust Christ as his or her Saviour. He can fill a building with hundreds of people and still not know what to do during this age of issues that we face today.

The main reason we have the disunity concerning some of the issues we face is the fact that some leaders haven't done their homework on the subject. They may have developed a method to get a large number of people to sit and listen to them; however, when the issues we face come along unless they have "studied to show themselves approved unto God" they cannot know the truth about any issue any more than they can fix computers if they have not studied computers.

## The Answer Is Very Simple

### Proverbs Chapter 2

- 1 My son, **if** thou wilt **receive** my words, and **hide** my commandments with thee;
- 2 So that thou **incline** thine ear unto wisdom, and **apply** thine heart to understanding;
- 3 Yea, **if** thou **criest** after knowledge, and **liftest up thy voice** for understanding;
- 4 If thou **seekest** her as silver, and searchest for her as for hid treasures;
- 5 **Then shalt thou understand** the fear of the LORD, and find the knowledge of God.
- 9 **Then shalt thou understand** righteousness, and judgment, and equity; yea, every good path.



*"Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth."  
(Second Timothy 2:15)*

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The powerful rock music (whether hard or soft) is used to create the atmosphere in which the charismatic worshiper can "feel God." Contemporary music is a huge part of the strange fire worship experience, and John MacArthur has brought this strange fire into his Resolved youth conferences. (See "John MacArthur and Cultural Liberalism" at [www.wayoflife.org](http://www.wayoflife.org).)

He has therefore already built the bridge to the charismatic movement and the one-world "church" that many will eventually cross. He has lost the war because he has lost the spiritual discernment he once had to oppose contemporary music. MacArthur is committing the same error as many independent Baptists. He thinks he can play with fire and not be burnt. He thinks he can tame the contemporary worship beast. But once this music is "adapted," it is only a matter of time until that particular church is leavened by its corrupting influence.

D. Cloud



**Noah Was In The  
Minority  
Until After The  
Flood**

**"Endeavouring to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace."  
(Ephesians 4:3)**