

# CAN WE BE “PERFECTLY JOINED?”

By Keith Greer

"Now I plead with you, brethren, by the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that you all speak the same thing, and that there be no divisions among you, but that you be perfectly joined together in the same mind and in the same judgment." (1 Corinthians 1:10)

Paul, in his first letter to the church at Corinth, began his letter with this plea. Christ, preparing for the cross, had similar thoughts concerning those who would come to Christ. "...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) Could men accomplish this worthy task?

When I lived and worked in Las Vegas I was often asked about the other churches in town. "How many other faithful congregations do you have in town?" While the answer would vary depending on who was asked this question, one thing is for sure, we did not have **UNITY!** Why?

During my time in Las Vegas, I discussed this matter with some of the preachers there. Yet, the majority desired to be left alone; no discussion of our differences, no willingness to study. Most of them were content to let things remain status quo. What can we do?

One local preacher there wanted to exchange pulpits on a Sunday evening. The men were agreeable, if the preacher would sit down with them and discuss some areas of concern about his teaching. He refused. Why? Only he and God know for sure. Why would anyone object to questions concerning his teaching?

Another preacher, some years later, held a meeting where he promised to discuss the "things which divides us." Another brother and I attended that meeting. We heard about mercy, love, forgiveness, and unity. One area he said very little on, **TRUTH!** "Can two walk together, unless they are agreed?" (Amos 3: 3)

One preacher in town believed we were an apostate church. Never having met me or talked with me, or any member there, how did he know? Only because I did not follow the Boston Discipling Movement. Since it is not truth, how can I follow it? If he won't study the subject, how can he be sure?

Yet, the most perplexing problem to me personally, is the attitude of some so-called "gospel preachers." Where in the Bible does it tell Christians to treat brethren, whether we agree or disagree on some point of truth, like heathens? From my understanding of the Scriptures, they could be right about the point of truth, but will still be lost because of an ungodly attitude and behavior! Please read, 1 John 2:9-11; 4:19-21.

What divided the church in Corinth is what divides the churches in Las Vegas. Matter of fact, this is the only thing that should bring division, truth! Why can't we agree on what the Bible says? Is it that difficult? "Therefore do not be unwise, but understand what the will of the Lord is. " (Ephesians 5:17)

No, God is not at fault; man is at fault. Las Vegas was one of the fastest growing cities in our country at the time. The need for the gospel is great. Men and women are dying in sin daily! Do we even care?

Did our Lord pray for something which is impossible to attain? Does our Lord require of us something we cannot pay? Sadly, I must admit the problem is on our end. What can we do? Preach the truth, teach the truth, and practice the same truth. Be open minded and by all means pray!

Dear readers, Las Vegas was not unique. The same problem exist right here in Harrodsburg and the surrounding areas. Yes, we have many "churches of Christ" yet we are not on the same page spiritually speaking. Only the pure truth will put us back on the same biblical platform of unity. \*\*\*