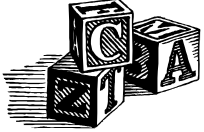


Acts 2:12 And they all continued in amazement and great perplexity, saying to one another,

"What does this mean?"

Response Questions for 1 Corinthians 16:19-24

"The Biblical Principle of Ecumenicalism and Excommunication"



Basic Ideas from 1 Corinthians 16:19-24

1. There are many people external to our fellowship who should be embraced, and there are some people within our fellowship who should be addressed.
2. We should identify those with whom we can network, and we should identify those whom we must address.
3. Let us love the Lord by loving those who love His church, and let us hate all who would attack our Lord by attacking His church.

Basic Questions from 1 Corinthians 16:19-24

1. How do we express our mutual love and forgiveness of one another in a way that would be culturally relevant? How can we show this corporately as a sign of true community?
2. How do we begin to reach beyond our local church to other local churches for the purpose of recognizing that we are all one in Christ? Quarterly prayer meetings with their leadership? Annual events where we can come together for a common idea?

APPLICATION: What is the NEXT STEP? Let us get real practical. Think about the following statements. In what way is the Holy Spirit speaking to you?

1. We should strive to make local church unity an intentional ministry of this fellowship as we would any other ministry expression.
2. The leadership and congregation must embrace the biblical necessity for this ministry.
3. Individuals must follow the pattern of Matthew 18 in communicating to the unruly their concerns in private.
4. The leadership must follow the pattern of Matthew 18.
5. The church must recognize the unrepentant and collectively shun them in order to secure their salvation or restoration to the family through repentance.
6. The church must work with other churches to keep the non-repentant from disrupting their fellowships. The severity of the action is in order to restore them to the faith.
7. Who do you know right now who is out of step and needs to be addressed?
8. Whether it involves a husband's behavior toward his wife and/or child(ren), or his failure to work for a living, or an addiction to pornography, or substance abuse, or is no longer coming to church, this person needs to be addressed by their friends, in private, for the purpose of restoring them to the faith.
9. We must begin a process of being the body to one another, and this happens when we truly love the Lord and His church.
10. I do not believe we are to be calling curses down upon the heads of the unbelieving.
11. I do believe we are to warn those within a fellowship who appear as angels of light, but are deceptive wolves in sheep's clothing. These people are destructive to body unity.

Continued on the other side...

12. It is the responsibility of biblical shepherds to guard the flock of God, and we must be on the alert against such self-deceived unbelievers.
13. Are you firmly rooted in and consumed by the love of Christ?
14. Does His love dominate your thinking?
15. If you cannot act without love, then be careful in your correction.