

HOW TO ADDRESS DIVISION

ROMANS 14:1

INTRODUCTION:

1. Polarization: “divide or cause to divide...”
2. Division in the church has resulted in conservatism vs liberalism with each side judging and condemning the other.
3. **Romans 15.5,6:** “*be like-minded toward one another, according to Christ Jesus, that you may with one mind and one mouth...*”

I. IDENTIFY OPINION

- A. Some brethren elevate their opinions. (Job 32.10)
- B. What is an opinion?
 1. An opinion comes from deep thought. (Rom. 14.1,5)
 2. An opinion is acceptable to God. (Rom. 14.2,3)
 3. An opinion does not have to be shared. (Rom. 14.4)
 4. An opinion cannot contradict God’s will. (Rom. 14.5-8)
 5. An opinion should never divide us. (Rom. 14.10)

II. IDENTIFY THE DEVISIVE

- A. **Romans 16.17:** “*note those who cause divisions and offenses, contrary to the doctrine which you learned*”
 1. Note (scopeo): Be on the lookout for the divisive.
 2. Contextually, those who are divisive are those who are on the conservative side being too restrictive.
- B. **Romans 16.17:** “*avoid them.*”

III. IDENTIFY DOCTRINE

- A. Paul wrote about the doctrine in his pastoral letters.
 1. 1 Timothy: Protect the doctrine. (1 Tim. 6.20)
 2. 2 Timothy: Preach the doctrine. (2 Tim. 4.2)
 3. Titus: Practice the doctrine. (Titus 3.1)
- B. How do we identify the doctrine of Christ? (Acts 15.1)
 1. What did God do? (Acts 15.6-12)
 2. What did God say? (Acts 15.13-17)

CONCLUSION: To address division, start with yourself.

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“Go into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature”
-Mark 16.15

January 18, 2026

MEETING TIMES:

SUNDAY MORNING BIBLE CLASS : 9:00 AM
SUNDAY MORNING WORSHIP: 9:50 AM
SUNDAY EVENING WORSHIP: 6:00 PM
WEDNESDAY EVENING BIBLE CLASS 7:30 PM

“The Secret Things Belong to the Lord”

Deuteronomy 29.29 is an oft quoted passage: “*The secret things belong to the Lord our God, but those things which are revealed belong to us and to our children forever, that we may do all the words of this law.*” When taken in context, it tells us that the punishments of God are a secret.

In the context, Deuteronomy, God is making a covenant with His people. If the children of Israel did not live up to their end of the bargain, there would be punishment. However, the extent of that punishment, the nature of that punishment, and the length of that punishment had not yet been revealed. It was a secret.

When you read the surrounding verses, reference is made to the land that had become like Sodom and Gomorrah. Nations were asking why God would do this to the land (Deut. 29.23,24)? They put forth a possible theory, but no one could say for sure. That is because “*the secret things belong to God.*” The point is, there are blessings and punishments associated with keeping or breaking God’s laws. However, it is God who determines what those punishments will be. It is not something we can know unless He chooses to reveal it to us.

God determines the rules and the punishments and blessings associated with them. It is our responsibility to follow them. CLP

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DEMONSTRATING YOUR LOVE TO GOD

ROMANS 5:8

INTRODUCTION:

1. How do we know that we are loved?
 - a) The Bible tells us that Jesus loves us. (Gal. 2.20; Rev. 1.5)
 - b) The Bible tells us that God loves us. (Rom. 5.8; John 3.16)
2. How does Jesus know that we love Him? (John 14.15; 15.14)
3. The Bible tells us how to demonstrate our love to God.

I. A DESIRE TO SPEND TIME IN WORSHIP

- A. When you love someone, you want to spend time together.
- B. To demonstrate your love for God, spend time with Him.
 1. Remember the death of Jesus. (1 Cor. 11.20,23-24; 10.16)
 2. Sing praises to God. (Eph. 5.19)
 3. Spend time studying the Bible. (Acts 20.7)
- C. Why do those who claim to love God forsake the assembling of ourselves together? (Heb. 10.25)

II. A DESIRE TO TALK TO GOD

- A. When you love someone, you want to talk together.
- B. To demonstrate your love for God, talk to Him.
 1. Talking to God is talking to your Father. (Matt. 6.9)
 2. Pray often. (Luke 18.1; 1 Thess. 5.17; Col. 4.2)
 3. What should I say? (1 Tim. 2.2; James 1.5)

III. A DESIRE TO GIVE BACK TO GOD

- A. When you love someone, you want to give to that someone.
- B. To demonstrate your love to God, give to Him.
 1. **2 Corinthians 8.1,2:** The giving Macedonians
 2. **2 CORINTHIANS 8.7:** We are to abound in giving.
 3. **2 CORINTHIANS 8.9:** We ought to love enough to give.
 4. **2 CORINTHIANS 9.6-8:** When I see how much God loves me, it compels me to love them back. (1 John 4.19)

IV. A DESIRE TO LOVE THE LOVED

- A. When you love someone, you love those whom they love.
- B. To demonstrate your love to God, love those He loves.
 1. Do you love your brethren? (John 13.35; 1 John 4.20,21)
 2. Do you love your enemies? (Luke 6.35)

CONCLUSION: "Do you love Me?" (John 21.15-17)

Home is Where the Heart Is

No doubt you have heard that expression. It is an expression that dates back in sentiment to the Roman Philosopher Pliny in the first century (29-79 AD). It was first recorded in English in the writings of Joseph Neal in 1829. The idea behind the expression is that a home is not defined by four walls and a roof. Home is defined by feelings of love, comfort, and acceptance.

If home is where the heart is, that leads me to ask: Where is your heart? Jesus answered that question during His sermon on the mount. In Matthew 6, Jesus addressed the pursuit of money. It is there that He said not to lay up for yourselves treasure on earth but treasure in heaven. He then explains why: "*For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also*" (Matt. 6.19-21). If you want to know where your heart lives, you need to look to those things that you value the most.

If you do a deep dive into this statement of Jesus, you will discover that the word "treasure" is translated from the Greek word "thesauros." If that word looks familiar, it should. This is where we get our English word "thesaurus." The word carries the meaning of "storehouse." It is the place where you keep your valuables. We might equate it to a savings account in a bank or a safe in your home. It is the same word found in 1 Corinthians 16 where we find the command to give on the first day of the week. It is here that we are told to "*lay something aside, storing up as he may prosper*" (1 Cor. 16.2). The words "*storing up*" translates the verb form of the word Jesus used.

Jesus also made reference to a location. He said, "*treasure in heaven.*" There is a storehouse that contains our most valuable possessions, and the location of that storehouse is in heaven. When the apostle Paul had come to the end of his life, he was looking forward to receiving that treasure "*which the Lord, the righteous Judge, will give to me on that Day*" (2 Tim. 4.8). Our treasure is not currently in our possession. It is waiting for us in heaven.

What is this treasure in heaven that is waiting for us? Jesus described it as a treasure that "*neither moth nor rust destroys and where thieves do not break in and steal*" (Matt. 6.20). It cannot be taken from us, destroyed, or decay. That makes me think of what Peter wrote in the opening verses of his first epistle. It is there that he refers to the "*inheritance incorruptible and undefiled and that does not fade away, reserved in heaven for you*" (1 Pet. 1.4). The treasure that is waiting for us in heaven is the treasure of eternal life in heaven with God.

So where is your heart? Is it attached to the treasure of this earth or the treasure in heaven? Perhaps that is why Paul wrote, "*For our citizenship is in heaven, from which we also eagerly wait for the Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ*" (Phil. 3.20).

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