

Combating Dissension

*The word **dissension** is a negative word describing difference of opinion often involved in relationships with others. Dissension is common throughout society. However, when dissension is arising within a church it can quickly escalate into a negative influence and grow into outright rebellion within a group. Dissension usually centers upon the introduction of a new doctrinal paradigm that challenges long held scriptural beliefs of church members. If this conflict is not addressed quickly by the church, dissension will eventually destroy the cohesion of the members.*

Yah's words in scripture tell us how we are to live righteously according to His will, how we are to discern right from wrong in addressing negative characteristics, affecting ourselves and the church at large. But first let us read the way dissension manifests itself by declaring it is a form of godlessness because it denies the power of Yah's Holy Spirit...the Spirit of truth.

2 Timothy 3:1~9 This know also, that in the last days perilous times shall come. For **men shall be lovers of their own selves, covetous, boasters, proud, blasphemers, disobedient to parents, unthankful, unholy, Without natural affection, trucebreakers, false accusers, incontinent, fierce, despisers of those that are good, Traitors, heady, highminded, lovers of pleasures more than lovers of God;** Having a form of godliness, but denying the power thereof: **from such turn away.** For of this sort are they which creep into houses, and lead captive silly women laden with sins, led away with divers lusts, Ever learning, and never able to come to the knowledge of the truth. Now as Jannes and Jambres withstood Moses, so do these also **resist the truth: men of corrupt minds, reprobate concerning the faith.** But they shall proceed no further: **for their folly shall be manifest unto all men,** as theirs also was.

*Thus dissension is shown manifesting itself in all sorts of self-centered, selfish acts contradicting the doctrines of the church founded upon His Spirit of Truth. Such unfounded, false accusations force the church to become defensive resulting in its growth being halted with chaos running unchecked among its members. The scriptures instruct us: **from such turn away.***

*Turning away is a hard concept, difficult to accomplish when **judging by our own moral standards.** Feelings and emotions get in the way causing conflicts as some members, seemingly compassionate, are willing to allow dissension to **co-exist** within the body of the church. While others less tolerant of such intervention are seen as being cruel, unloving, not willing to show mercy. After the members discuss each viewpoint, a conclusion based on the written law should be reached.*

Zechariah 7:9~14 Thus speaketh the LORD of hosts, saying, **Execute true judgment,** and shew **mercy and compassions** every man to his brother: And oppress not the widow, nor the fatherless, the stranger, nor the poor; and let none of you imagine evil against his brother in your heart. But they refused to hearken, and pulled away the shoulder, and stopped their ears, that they should not hear. Yea, they made their hearts as an adamant stone, **lest they should hear the law,** and the words which the LORD of hosts hath sent in his spirit by the former prophets: therefore came a great wrath from the LORD of hosts. Therefore it is come to pass, **that as he cried, and they would not hear; so they cried, and I would not hear,** saith the LORD of hosts: But I scattered them with a whirlwind among all the nations whom they knew not. Thus the land was **desolate** after them, that no man passed through nor returned: for they laid the pleasant land desolate.

*The seven churches in Revelation visibly show what happens when false beliefs are allowed to **co-exist** with truth. A little leaven destroys the whole batch. Why? Because we are unwilling to follow the judgment according to true righteousness given to us to live by. We take on the role of judging and use human reasoning instead of God's laws in discerning right from wrong.*

Titus 3:9~11 But avoid foolish questions, and genealogies, and **contentions, and strivings about the law**; for they are unprofitable and vain. A man that is an heretick after the first and second admonition reject; Knowing that he that is such is subverted, and sinneth, **being condemned of himself.**

The given law bestowed on mankind from Our Lord releases one from all “judgment,” defined as condemning according to one’s personal feelings. The law separates the difference to judge verses using judgment. To judge refers to the act of discerning right from wrong. Judgment is the act of condemning, punishing one for their actions. The first instance is our responsibility, the second the Lord’s.

2 Thessalonians 3:6~7 Now we command you, brethren, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, **that ye withdraw yourselves from every brother that walketh disorderly**, and not after the tradition which he received of us. For yourselves know how ye ought to follow us: for we behaved not ourselves disorderly among you; Neither did we eat any man's bread for nought; but wrought with labour and travail night and day, that we might not be chargeable to any of you: Not because we have not power, but to make ourselves an example unto you to follow us. For even when we were with you, this we commanded you, **that if any would not work, neither should he eat.** For we hear that there are some which walk among you disorderly, working not at all, but are busybodies. Now them that are such we command and exhort by our Lord Jesus Christ, that **with quietness they work**, and eat their own bread. But ye, brethren, be not weary in well doing. And if any man obeys not our word by this epistle, **note that man, and have no company with him**, that he may be ashamed. Yet count him not as an enemy, but **admonish him as a brother.**

There is much instruction about handling those that cause divisions within our churches, defined as a body of believers co-existing together, united, having a similar faith and direction.

Romans 16:17~18 Now I beseech you, brethren, **mark them which cause divisions and offences contrary to the doctrine which ye have learned; and avoid them.** For they that are such serve not our Lord Jesus Christ, but their own belly; and by good words and fair speeches **deceive the hearts of the simple.**

1 Corinthians 5:9~13 I wrote unto you in an epistle not to company with fornicators: Yet not altogether with the fornicators of this world, or with the covetous, or extortioners, or with idolaters; for then must ye needs go out of the world. But now I have written unto you not to keep company, if any man that is called a brother be a fornicator, or covetous, or an idolater, or a railer, or a drunkard, or an extortioner; with such an one no not to eat. For what have I to do to judge them also that are without? **Do not you judge them that are within?** But them that are without God judgeth. **Therefore put away from among yourselves that wicked person.**

Do we understand the instructions given to us? The message from Yah through Paul does not say to embrace them, or condone their teachings, or even regard them as a fellow believer lost on the walk. No... Yah instructs us to “Judge” those that are declared members, self-appointed believers that openly support a contrary belief and such practices them openly, and teaching members to do likewise.

2 John 1:9~11 Whosoever transgresseth, and abideth not in the doctrine of Christ, hath not God. He that abideth in the doctrine of Christ, he hath both the Father and the Son. If there come any unto you, and bring not this doctrine, receive him not into your house, neither bid him God speed: **For he that biddeth him God speed is partaker of his evil deeds.**

Condoning evil deeds places you vulnerable to receive the judgment of the unrighteous doer. You are judged as if you were the transgressor because you condoned the transgression. An example easily demonstrates this judgment: You are walking down the street; you observe a mugging of an elderly person by a youth occurring right before you. You do nothing to stop it, nor do you call for help. No, you just watch it take place, standing your distance, avoiding involvement. By not doing anything to prevent this wrong

*happening, you through your actions, condoned the transgression. You judged the matter in principle by siding with the mugger, giving unspoken support to his actions. **For he that biddeth him God speed is partaker of his evil deeds.***

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

*Being joined together in the **same mind** and in the **same judgment** only occurs if everyone is using the same doctrines, the same rules to judge by, the laws of Yah made clear to us in the scriptures. Without the laws, our ruling of right and wrong, judgment becomes defenseless, subjected to being overtaken and measured by our feelings and physical emotions with no ties to righteous judgments, in essence, being led by the spirit of self with Satan as its monarch.*

*The instructions given by Zechariah in Chapter 7 from the LORD says **Execute true judgment**, and shew **mercy and compassions** every man to his brother. Oppress not the widow, the fatherless, the stranger, nor the poor; and let none of you imagine evil against his brother in your heart.*

*These are the basics of judgment Yah instructs us to do: Speak you every man **the truth** to his neighbor, **EXECUTE the judgment of truth and peace** between a man and his neighbor. Place Yah's commandments as the delineation of truth and execute your judgments according to their directions. In doing this, there shall be no divisions among you. And if division, **heresies** should arise in the midst of you, **they which are approved may be made manifest among you**. The fruit of Yah's Holy Spirit living in them is seen by their righteous judgments.*

1Corinthians 11:17~19 Now in this that I declare unto you I praise you not, that ye come together not for the better, but for the worse. For first of all, when ye come together in the church, I hear that there be **divisions among you**; and I partly believe it. For there must be also **heresies** among you, **that they which are approved may be made manifest among you**.

Are you approved by Our Lord, rightfully judging right from wrong according to His law? For truly at the Day of Judgment, we shall not be examined on what we have read, but what we have done; not on how well we have spoken, but on how righteous we have lived.

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