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## **Divided by Truth or United in Error**

When confronted with the option, do we sacrifice truth for unity or unity for truth? Christ himself said He came to bring a sword and NOT peace.

### **Matthew 10:34**

“Do not suppose that I have come to bring **peace** to the earth. I did not come to bring **peace**, but a **sword**.”

So, where does that put his priority? Listen to what He says next.

### **Matthew 10:35-36**

“For I have come to turn a man against his father, a daughter against her mother, a daughter-in-law against her mother-in-law - a man’s enemies will be the members of his own household.”

So much for unity. When you stand for the truth, no matter how much love you show, your enemies will be revealed, and you might be surprised just who they turn out to be. He then continues,

### **Matthew 10:37-38**

“Anyone who loves his father or mother more than me is not worthy of me; anyone who loves his son or daughter more than me is not worthy of me; and anyone who does not take his cross and follow me is not worthy of me.”

Our allegiance to the Word of God is the utmost priority in the eyes of the Lord regardless of what it costs - even if it costs family, let alone friends or leadership. What was the sword that He brought that these verses speak of? It was the Word of God! All of the teachings of Christ was in bringing His people BACK to the Word. The Truth. He was the prophet that Moses spoke of in Deuteronomy.

### **Deuteronomy 18:15-19**

(YHWH) The LORD your God will raise up for you a prophet like me from among your own brothers. You must listen to him. For this is what you asked of (YHWH) the LORD your God at Horeb on the day of the assembly when you said, “Let us not hear the voice of (YHWH) the LORD our God nor see this great fire anymore, or we will die.” (YHWH) The LORD said to me: “What they say is good. I will raise up for them a prophet like you from among their brothers; I will put MY WORDS in his mouth,

and he will tell them everything I command them. If anyone does not listen to MY WORDS that the prophet speaks in my name, I myself will call him to account.

It's the Word of God that Christ was preaching - the very words given through Moses. Christ himself called it a sword. Paul did the same.

### **Ephesians 6:17**

Take the helmet of salvation and the **sword of the Spirit**, which is the word of God.

It's the Word of God that reveals truth. What is the definition of truth?

### **Psalms 119:142**

Thy righteousness is an everlasting righteousness, and thy law is truth.

No wonder he said he didn't come to abolish the law. The law is the truth. Truth draws a line. It's a line of division. It's a line that forces a decision of choosing sides. It's that's simple - to crucify self or compromise; obedience or disobedience, light or darkness, wheat or tares, sheep or goats, wise or unwise. Is that not what Christ taught? It's in TRUTH (God's law) that we are to strive for unity. This is what Paul taught.

### **Ephesians 4:11-13**

It was he who gave some to be apostles, some to be prophets, some to be evangelists, and some to be pastors and teachers, to prepare God's people for works of service, so that the body of Christ may be built up until we all reach **unity in the faith** and in the knowledge of the Son of God and become mature, attaining to the whole measure of the fullness of Christ.

Note that it doesn't say, "Unity in peace," but rather in the faith. Unity of peace, however, removes the line of truth. Truth becomes subjective to the circumstances instead of vice versa. Truth becomes relative and no longer the standard to walk in. When peace and unity takes precedence, truth becomes an obscure background. What else does the Scriptures tell us about truth?

### **I John 5:6**

This is the one who came by water and blood — Jesus Christ. He did not come by water only, but by water and blood. And it is the Spirit who testifies, because the Spirit is the **truth**.

*The Spirit IS the truth...*

Interesting, isn't it? The law is the truth, the Spirit is truth, and it's the Spirit that puts the law in our hearts.

### **Ezekiel 36:27**

And I will put my Spirit in you and move you to follow my decrees and be careful to keep my laws.

What else do we know about the Spirit?

### **2 Corinthians 3:17**

Now the Lord is the Spirit; and where the Spirit of the Lord is, *there* is liberty.

And what did Christ say about himself?

### **John 14:6**

Jesus *said* to him, "I am (a) the **way**, and (b) the **truth**, and (c) the **life**; no one comes to the Father, but through Me.

So then, the law is the truth. The Spirit is the truth. Yeshua is the Spirit, and Yeshua is the truth - talk about unity! There's actually more, but for the sake of time, let's stay on topic. Consider the following...

**Ephesians 4:3**

Make every effort to keep the unity of the Spirit through the bond of peace.

We see here that the unity we are to seek is that of unity of the Spirit - the Lord, the Truth, the law - **NOT** unity of peace. Let's read it again.

**Ephesians 4:3**

Make every effort to keep the unity of the Spirit through the bond of peace.

Consider these words of Yeshua in referring to our unity...

**John 17:22,23**

I have given them the glory that you gave me, that they may be one as we are one—I in them and you in me—so that they may be brought to complete unity. Then the world will know that you sent me and have loved them even as you have loved me.

How does the Lord say that we are perfected in unity here? It's by way of the Father in Yeshua and Yeshua in us. Think about this for a moment. First, the Father...

**John 1:1**

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.

Therefore, the Father was, and is, the Word. Then...

**John 1:14**

The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. We have seen his glory, the glory of the One and Only, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth.

This parallels...

**Colossians 1:19**

For God was pleased to have all his fullness dwell in him,

Therefore, all of the Word (*who is God*), dwells in Christ, and now that same Word is in us.

**Colossians 3:16**

Let the **word** of Christ dwell **in you** richly as **you** teach and admonish one another with all wisdom, and as **you** sing psalms, hymns and spiritual songs with gratitude **in** your hearts to God.

**James 1:21**

Therefore, get rid of all moral filth and the evil that is so prevalent and humbly accept the **word** planted **in you**, which can save **you**.

So, are we to test everything in accordance to peace? Do we to test everything in accordance to unity? No. We test EVERYTHING to the Word - *who is Yahweh, Yeshua, the Spirit, the truth, the law.*

### Acts 17:11

Now the Bereans were of more noble character than the Thessalonians, for they received the message with great eagerness and examined the Scriptures every day to see if what Paul said was true.

The Bereans didn't take everything Paul taught for the sake of unity. They tested everything he said to the Word (the sword) regardless of unity? What was the Scriptures for them? *It was the Old Testament, the TANAKH.* There was no New Testament yet, so everything Paul said HAD to be in agreement with the TANAKH. The Bereans were not focused on unity. They were focused on truth.

If unity, for the sake of unity and peace, was the focus of Christ, he wouldn't have confronted the Pharisees and teachers of the law. He would have gone along with them. But, as it is, we know His focus was on re-establishing the truth to His people. *If unity is not in truth, then it's in error. Let me say that again. If unity is not in truth, then it's in error. Remember, the people were in unity not long after Noah, however, that was not the unity the Father desired. The place became known as - Babel.* We don't trust leadership for the sake of peace or unity. We trust leadership when they are PROVEN by the Word. If someone says, "Trust us because we're your leadership," red flags should pop up everywhere for you. If your leadership is not willing to be tested, then you need to STAND up and be the Berean - even under pressure. This needs to be done regardless of accusations that you are disturbing the unity or the peace in the congregation. The fact is you're calling for truth - God's truth. It's the truth that sets us free, not unity or peace.

***Christ delivered the Word - the truth. The focus of the believers' walk is to be truth - the Word.***

Everyone is accountable to being a Berean. Everyone is accountable to the Word, ESPECIALLY teachers.

### James 3:1

Not many of you should presume to be teachers, my brothers, because you know that we who teach will be judged more strictly.

Authority ONLY COMES FROM THE WORD. If one teaches something outside the Word, then they are outside of God and NO ONE is obligated to submit to that authority. In fact, you are to flee from this leadership and be the watchman on the wall that calls it out.

*Be the Berean. Test everything. It is better to be divided by truth than united in error.*

We hope you've enjoyed this study. Remember to test everything.

Shalom.

For more on this and other teachings, please visit us at [www.testeverything.net](http://www.testeverything.net)

**Shalom, and may Yahweh bless you in walking in the whole Word of God.**

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