

Messenger Of Truth

"Holding forth the Word of Life" (Phil. 2:16).

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Agreement

"Can two walk together, except they be agreed?" (Amos 3:3).

"You can always spot a well-informed man – his views are the same as yours." – Ilka Chase

"One can be very happy without demanding that others should agree with one." – Johann Wolfgang von Goethe

"If you want people to think you are wise, agree with them." – Yiddish Proverb

"You are my friend as long as you agree with everything I say." Well, that is not likely to happen. Even in the best of marriages you won't find 100% agreement on everything. But on the other hand, in order for there to be unity in the church, there has to be some agreement. The apostle Paul wrote about being of the same mind and judgment (1 Cor. 1:10).

Even among the most scholarly of our brethren, (some of the most noted preachers), there are areas in which there is disagreement. For example, in Acts 2:38 Peter speaks of those who will receive "the gift of the Holy Spirit." What is the gift? Some good brothers say it is miraculous, whereas others say the gift is the Spirit Himself. Is one to disfellowship a brother if they don't hold the same view you have in this context?

In 2 Cor. 12:7, Paul writes of his "thorn in the flesh." What was it? Good brethren have maintained for years that it was a reference to Paul's problems with his eyesight (Gal. 6:11). The early church fathers decided the thorn had to be a disease. But other good brethren have surmised that the thorn in the flesh may be that Paul had been caught up to the third heaven and had seen things which he was not permitted to speak about (2 Cor. 12:2). It is doubtful we will ever come to 100% agreement.

And what of the old classic of Jephthah (Judg. 11)? Did he offer his daughter as a sacrifice to God, or did he dedicate her to God for the rest of her life (Judg. 11:39-40)? You would be hard pressed to find agreement on that one.

There are some matters where we will have disagreement. But let's do our best to find agreement in those matters that pertain to salvation and doctrine. We may never agree on the gift of the Holy Spirit, of Paul's thorn in the flesh, and Jephthah's vow, but as it pertains to eternity and salvation, there can be no room for compromise or disagreement.

Thankfully when it comes to learning of what God requires of us, it is not too difficult to understand and we should find agreement!