

# CAUSES OF DISUNITY

CAUSES OF DISUNITY

Lesson 2 for October 13, 2018



God wants His people to be united. Obeying God's will is essential to achieve unity. When we are united, joy and prosperity fill the Church and the Gospel is preached with power.

Unfortunately, the people of God have not always set a good example. Therefore, we must study the history of God's people, so we can learn from past mistakes and be united today.



The people of Israel.



The need for obedience.



Doing whatever I want.



The need for wisdom.



The Christian Church.



Favoritism.



Self-interest.

# THE NEED OF OBEDIENCE

"And all these blessings shall come upon you and overtake you, because you obey the voice of the Lord your God." (Deuteronomy 28:2)

God set very clear conditions when Israel was about to enter the Promised Land:



Abundant life  
and peace  
(Dt. 28:1-14)

Obeying  
God

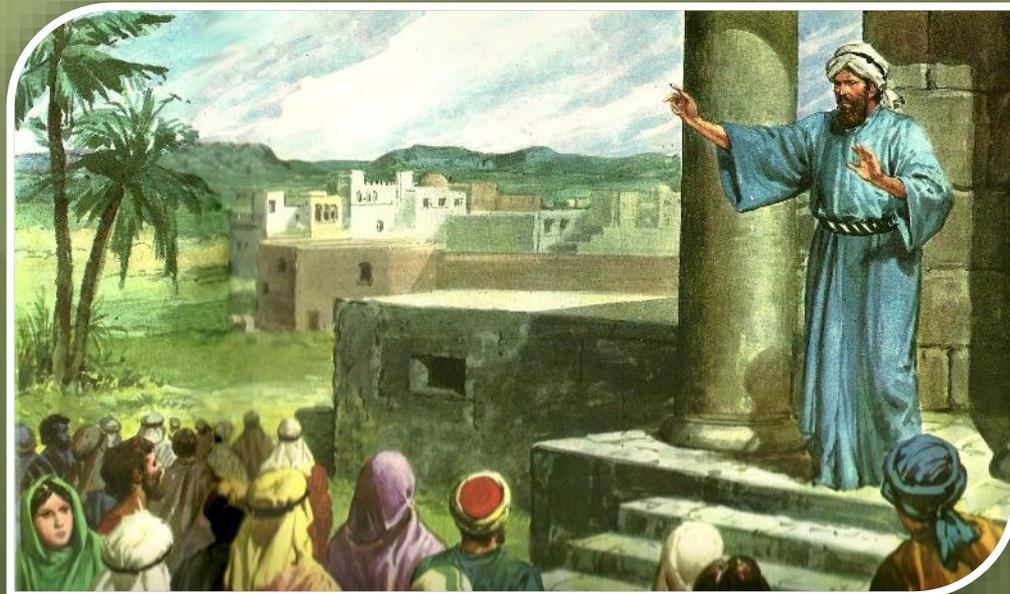
Disobedience

War and  
conflicts  
(Dt. 28:15-68)

We can see this pattern during all of Israel's history. Unfortunately, disobedience was more common than obedience.

However, God was always by their side. He sent prophets to call them to repentance because He loved His people (Jeremiah 3:14-15; 31:3).

God longs for His people to have prosperity, unity and health. He is able to do so when we live in faith and obedience.



**“If you draw close to Jesus and seek to adorn your profession by a well-ordered life and godly conversation, your feet will be kept from straying into forbidden paths. If you will only watch, continually watch unto prayer, if you will do everything as if you were in the immediate presence of God, you will be saved from yielding to temptation, and may hope to be kept pure, spotless, and undefiled till the last. If you hold the beginning of your confidence firm unto the end, your ways will be established in God; and what grace has begun, glory will crown in the kingdom of our God.”**

E.G.W. (Testimonies for the Church, vol. 5, cp. 12, p. 148)

# DOING WHATEVER I WANT

**"In those days there was no king in Israel; everyone did what was right in his own eyes."  
(Judges 21:25)**

**The people of Israel followed their own earthly desires and disobeyed God's law. They made two serious mistakes:**

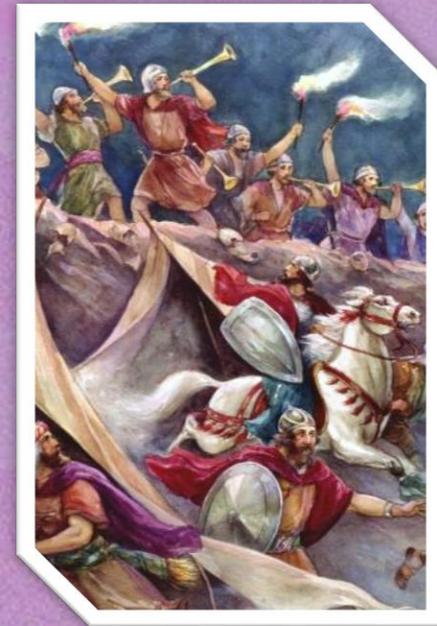
- a) They served other gods (Judges 2:11-13)**
- b) They married Canaanites (Judges 3:5-7)**



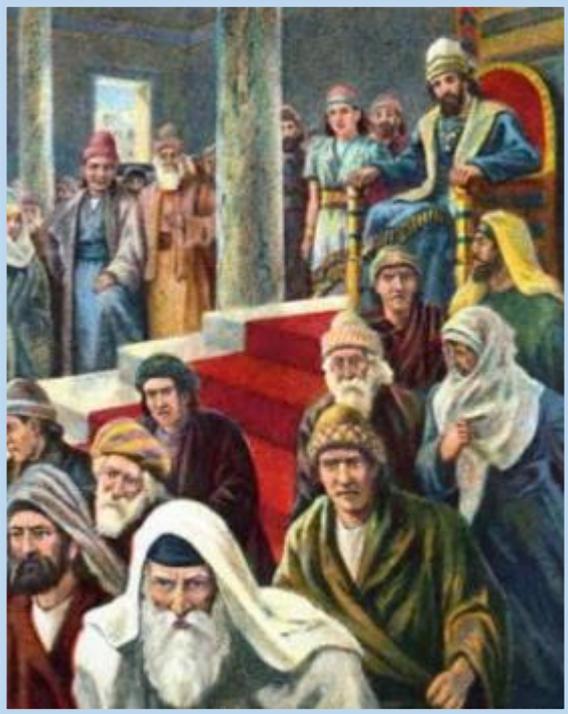
**They willingly stepped away from God's protection. Israel suffered wars and terrible sins as a result of those decisions.**

**Furthermore, the Gentiles misunderstood the true character and laws of God because of Israel's example.**

**Doing whatever I want has terrible results. Let's make the firm decision to do God's will from now on.**



# THE NEED FOR WISDOM



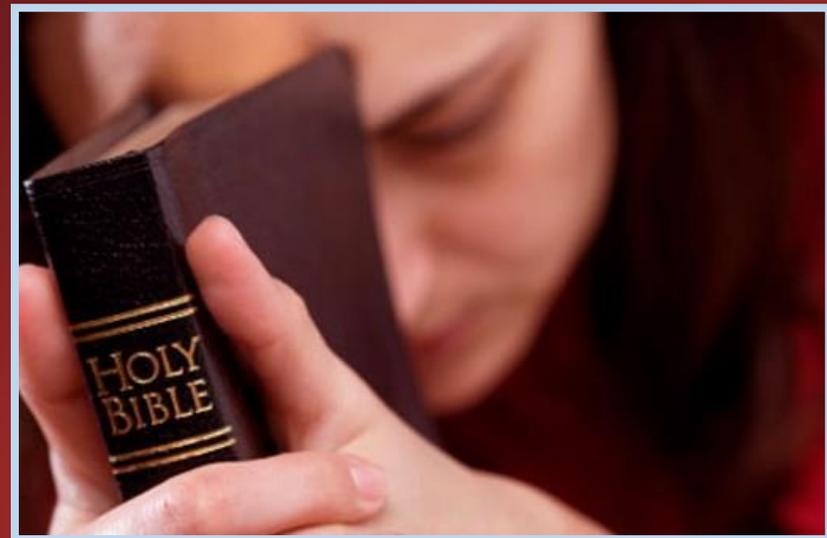
**“When all Israel saw that the king refused to listen to them, they answered the king: ‘What share do we have in David, what part in Jesse’s son? To your tents, Israel! Look after your own house, David!’ So the Israelites went home.” (1 Kings 12:16 NIV)**

**Why did Israel split into two kingdoms?**

**Rehoboam, the son of Solomon, sought wisdom in the wrong place. He didn’t hear the requests of his people and he was ruthless and cruel.**

**Where can we find wisdom to make the right decisions?**

**The Bible encourages us to get wisdom. The fear of God is the beginning of wisdom (Proverbs 4:7; 9:10). We only need to ask for it: “If any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask of God, who gives to all liberally and without reproach, and it will be given to him.” (James 1:5).**



# FAVORITISM

“Now I plead with you, brethren, by the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that you all speak the same thing, and that there be no divisions among you, but that you be perfectly joined together in the same mind and in the same judgment.” (1 Corinthians 1:10)

There were factions in the Church in Corinth: some said they were of Apollos, others of Paul, others of Cephas and others of Christ.

The brothers and sisters in Corinth had their eyes set on good men and their work. That brought division.



The heart of unity is Christ. He is our model and we must set our eyes on Him. When we all look at the cross, we are united in purpose.

# SELF-INTEREST

**“For I know this, that after my departure savage wolves will come in among you, not sparing the flock.” (Acts 20:29)**

**Paul warned the Church about people who would cause disunity in order to take advantage of the Church.**

**There will always be false teachers, but we can counter their work and preserve unity in the Church.**

**There is good advice in 2 Timothy 2:14-19 and 3:12-17 to avoid being misled:**

-  **Study the Bible, understand it and teach it.**
-  **Avoid trivial and speculative topics. Speak about the truth.**
-  **Obey God.**



**“The golden chain of love, binding the hearts of the believers in unity, in bonds of fellowship and love, and in oneness with Christ and the Father, makes the connection perfect, and bears to the world a testimony of the power of Christianity that cannot be controverted...**

**Then will selfishness be uprooted and unfaithfulness will not exist. There will not be strife and divisions. There will not be stubbornness in anyone who is bound up with Christ.”**

E.G.W. (That I May Know Him, June 16)