

4/17/73

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Divien Relations

And then there is the understanding of doctrine. I have often said, A person can differ with me on 25% of matters but if we agree that the 75% on which we agree are what is important we can stand together and work together. And agree to live and let live on the other 25%. ~~But~~ But a person can agree with me on 95% but if he thinks the other 5% is so important to him he has to keep harping on it all the time, we can't work together. We can work together with those with whom we have sufficient agreement that we can work well together, but we should recognize those who differ with us as true Christians if they truly believe in Christ. And if we have an understanding of the sovereignty of God that is a great blessing to us and a great help in our Christian life praise God for it. But if someone else doesn't that's no reason to kick him out and consider him as if he were an unbeliever but a reason to try to give him the blessing we have and to try to extend to him the understanding of God's truth that we have. God wishes us to be careful about drawing harsh lines within the Body of Christ. The Body of Christ is a unity. We will have differences. There are many things not made clear in the Scripture. We will have differences and it is well to work with those with whom we agree as far as possible, Yes. But we should recognize that all those who are united to Christ are our Christians' brothers. And we should do good to all men, and particularly to those who are of the household of faith.

One thing that has bothered me particularly in recent years has been to hear of some fine, separated, thoroughly sound Christians' churches, rather small, but carrying on a great witness for the Lord, and then the companies for which two or three of the leading members belong transfer them out to Omaha or California, or Texas or somewhere and there is a big hole in the church, and the minister has to work for 6 mo. or a yr. to try to find some people to take their place. And those men go out there and where are they? Do they have Christian fellowship there? People from those areas come here but they don't know anything about this particular church. They don't come to it. Maybe they <sup>think</sup> ~~don't~~ ~~there~~ there is no sound church in the area. Maybe they think they have to worship alone. I feel as if all true Christians regardless of our differences on other points, ought as far as possible to be aware of each other's existence. So that when members of our church move to another part of the country, if there is a church that agrees with us on many