



Bless you and keep you,

Do we have a divided mind? What about our heart?

Jesus warns against middle living; "He that is not with me is against me; and he that gathereth not with me scattereth abroad." (Matthew 12:30)

"I know thy works, that thou art neither cold nor hot: I wish that you were cold or hot." (Rev. 3:15)

Divisive Christians hold personal agendas, which if not dealt with can destroy the well-being of Churches, and can become living nightmares to Pastors.

Israel, following the death of King Solomon became a divided Kingdom.

Much like our Civil War in America; Israel, (the North), retained the name Israel, while the much smaller, yet more powerful tribes of Reuben, Benjamin and half the tribe of Manasseh became the nation of Judah, (the South).

A divided Kingdom was the result of King Solomon's unbridled appetite for women that God placed under prohibition. A divided Kingdom resulted in two sets of Kings, two sets of Priests, two Capital Cities; two Nations that often fought against one another.

Consider the spiritual cost of division.

Because of two separate nations, two warring nations; the Holy Feasts which mandated attendance of every Jewish male could no longer be safely attended by the residents of the Northern Kingdom of Israel.

Because of a divided Kingdom, Israel (the North), created its own capital city, Samaria. The North ordained their very own set of false Priests; not Levites. The Levites slowly migrated to the South (Judah) where Jerusalem remained its capital.

Jerusalem - where Yahweh would meet with The High Priest once a year on the Day of Atonement, in the Holies of Holies in Solomon's Temple.

Jerusalem - where Yahweh said prayers were to be made in His Name, and He would hear from heaven.

The Northern Kingdom of Israel no longer had access to the Presence of Yahweh.

Maybe that's why the much smaller Judah defeated the much larger Israel. Because Judah housed the Ark of the Covenant, the Table of Shewbread, the Great Menorah, the Golden Altar of Incense.

When unwelcome spirits of division designed to push people out, causing separation in the Body go un-dealt with, the cost will always be high.

The Holy Furnishings remained in Judah.

The City of David, (Jerusalem), Judah's capital.

Seeds of discord can go unnoticed for long periods, but Genesis tells us that seeds reproduce after their own kind. The casualty is usually unsuspecting new converts who come to Christ; join a church, and are unfamiliar with familiar spirits or those who operate in them.

Even mature followers of Christ, like Paul and Silas at Philippi allowed a demon possessed girl to follow them many days before Paul discerned her condition, and the spirit operating in her.

Acts 16:16-18 "Now it happened, as we went to prayer, that a certain slave girl possessed with a spirit of divination met us, who brought her masters much profit by fortune-telling. ¹⁷This girl followed Paul and us, and cried out, saying, "These men are the servants of the Most High God, who proclaim to us the way of salvation." ¹⁸And this she did for many days. But Paul, greatly annoyed, turned and said to the spirit, "I command you in the name of Jesus Christ to come out of her." And he came out that very hour."

1. As Paul and Silas were going to commune with the Lord, a demon possessed girl came in saying all the right things. But she was not of God.

2. It appears it took Paul some time to discern the source of her proclamations; "many days."

3. "But Paul, greatly annoyed", why would the Apostle be greatly annoyed by her hallelujah chorus? Because Paul was a humble servant and chose not to bring unwanted attention to himself - Paul was all about boasting in the Lord.

The ongoing work of the Holy Spirit targets our hearts for any unwanted, unprofitable seeds of discord. Saints who are strategically positioned by satan in houses of Worship; are under the influence of powerful malignant forces, as was the young girl in Philippi.

God admonishes each of us to "see if we be in the faith."

David in Psalms 139 pleaded for God to; "Search me, O God, and know my heart;
Try me, and know my anxieties;
²⁴ And see if *there is any* wicked way in me,
And lead me in the way everlasting.."

Father, forgive us if we have operated in gossip, distrust, suspicion against our brothers and sister in Christ. Against the leadership where we worship. Have mercy on us today, and restore a right spirit within us; we pray that we have not caused anyone to stumble over anything we have said or done. We receive your forgiveness right now, and promise to guard our heart with all diligence. We give you all the praise, honor and glory, in Jesus Name we pray.

Amen.