



FOR THERE MUST BE
FACTIONS AMONG YOU!

FACTIONS

- ▶ “Heresies” **(KJV)**; “Differences” **(NIV)**
- ▶ Def. = “A group within a larger group ... typically having different opinions, views, and interests from the rest of the group.” **(Dictionary.com)**
- ▶ Def. = “A body of men following their own tenets (sect or party); dissensions arising from diversity of opinions and aims.” **(Thayer)**
- ▶ Often includes taking or attempting to take a segment of the body with you as you depart.

WAS PAUL APPROVING FACTIONS?

- ▶ Paul is not condoning, but rather strongly condemning this type of behavior.
 - **Titus 1:9; 3:10**
- ▶ In our text, Paul is merely stating the fact that factions are going to exist whether we like it or not, and that we should be prepared to deal with them.
 - **Luke 17:1; Acts 20:30**

WHAT CAUSES FACTIONS?

- ▶ Unresolved differences between brethren.
 - **Matthew 18:15-17; Ephesians 4:26-27**
- ▶ Materialism.
- ▶ “Partyism.”
 - **1 Corinthians 1:10-11; 3:4**
- ▶ False Doctrine.
 - **Romans 16:17-18; 2 Peter 2:1-3**

HOW SHOULD WE RESPOND?

- ▶ “Attend the church of your choice?” / “You believe what you want, and I’ll believe what I want?”
 - There are not several “ways” from which you are free to choose! **(cf. John 14:6)**
- ▶ “Agree to disagree?”
 - Ignoring our differences can result in our supporting error!
 - **Ephesians 5:6-7,11; 2 John 9-11; 2 Corinthians 6:14-17**
- ▶ Like Paul – determined to stand for and defend the truth!

GOOD CAN RESULT FROM FACTIONS!

- ▶ Separate the wheat from the chaff!
 - **1 John 2:19; Titus 3:10-11**
- ▶ Bring to the forefront those who are strong & faithful!
 - **1 Corinthians 11:19**
- ▶ The constant threat of factions should help to keep us alert and watchful!
 - **1 Peter 5:8**

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**”Heresy, affliction and persecution are the
‘acid tests’ of faithfulness and stability!”**

(Gordon D. Fee, *The First Epistle to the Corinthians*)



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