

Pursue Unity and Proclaim Truth!

Romans 16:17-20

April 28, 2024

"Beware of false prophets, who come to you in sheep's clothing, but inwardly they are ravenous wolves." (Matthew 7:15; NKJ)

"Now I urge you, brethren, note those who cause divisions and offenses, contrary to the doctrine which you learned, and avoid them. For those who are such do not serve our Lord Jesus Christ, but their own belly, and by smooth words and flattering speech deceive the hearts of the simple. For your obedience has become known to all. Therefore I am glad on your behalf; but I want you to be wise in what is good, and simple concerning evil. And the God of peace will crush Satan under your feet shortly. The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you. Amen." (Romans 16:17-20; NKJ)

1. Let us absolutely _____ and _____ for the _____ of the Body of Christ! (v17)

Maintain unity in spite of:

- **Our different _____.**

"There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free, there is neither male nor female; for you are all one in Christ Jesus." (Galatians 3:18; NKJ)

- **Our different _____ and _____**

"For I say, through the grace given to me, to everyone who is among you, not to think of himself more highly than he ought to think, but to think soberly, as God has dealt to each one a measure of faith. For as we have many members in one body, but all the members do not have the same function, so we, being many, are one body in Christ, and individually members of one another." (Romans 12:3-5; NKJ)

- **Different _____ .**
- **Different _____ .**
- **_____ and _____ .**

"Therefore, as the elect of God, holy and beloved, put on tender mercies, kindness, humility, meekness, longsuffering; bearing with

one another, and forgiving one another, if anyone has a complaint against another; even as Christ forgave you, so you also must do." (Colossians 3:12-13; NKJ)

2. Let us hold fast to the basis of our unity - _____ - without _____ !

"Jesus said to him, 'I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me.'" (John 15:6; NKJ)

"All I want is to come to know Christ and the power of his resurrection and to share in his sufferings by becoming conformed to his death," (Philippians 3:10; NKJ)

3. Let us recognize and _____ those who threaten unity by means of _____ and _____ . (v18)

Four Tests of a Teacher...

- **Check their _____ !**
- **Watch the _____ .**

"You will know them by their fruits. Do men gather grapes from thornbushes or figs from thistles? Even so, every good tree bears good fruit, but a bad tree bears bad fruit. A good tree cannot bear bad fruit, nor can a bad tree bear good fruit." (Matthew 7:16-18; NKJ)

- **Don't be swayed by _____ .**
- **Don't captivated by _____ and empty _____ .**

"Beloved, do not believe every spirit, but test the spirits, whether they are of God; because many false prophets have gone out into the world. By this you know the Spirit of God: Every spirit that confesses that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh is of God, and every spirit that does not confess that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh is not of God. And this is the spirit of the Antichrist, which you have heard was coming, and is now already in the world." (1 John 4:1-3; NKJ)