

3/13/22

31
FB 11

Sermon – Restore Harmony

Scripture – Mathew 12:22-30, Psalm 133, Ephesians 4:1-6

Main Message – The Battle is between Good and Evil; discern the difference!

The World appears to be greatly divided. DUH! It always has been, but now irrational ridicule is stoking the fires creating self-righteous behavior beyond measure. This self-righteousness has inflamed arguments where there should be none at all. Every tactic is used to silence the other side. Have an opinion on one side and get called some derogatory term that is likely not valid. Don't like this... you're a racist. Don't like that, you're a science denier, The division we see is destroying the world and the hope of peace. Indignant about the war in Ukraine? Why? We are at war within our own border and is in evidence at every level of society now. The difference is we don't have access to armies in order to win or way. I have heard people so opinionated on challengeable knowledge that if they had access to an army, they wouldn't hesitate.

Read Mathew 12

To have disunity, there must be opposing sides. Here we see the Jesus and Satan. For either side to be successful there must be unity. If they are not, then neither could stand up to the other.

We could spend the entire rest of the day here discussing how we are divided in America at various levels. Everything from political affiliation down to mask or no mask. Meat or Vegetarian. Gas or Electric Cars. At every turn there is a reason to be indignant of the other side or the opposition. This is how the enemy of us all likes it. Nothing to do but occasionally add yet another topic for us to be divided on. Is anyone hearing this message happy with this division? There are... the self-righteous.

There is a better way. **Read Psalm 133**

This Psalm is meant to stir the spirit within us to seek that harmony again. IF a topic is divisive, throw it out, especially if you can't tolerate an opposing view. Best just to keep it to yourself. The battle to be waged is not against these silly little topics that have NO ETERNAL VALUE WHATSOEVER! They are not worthy of those who claim Christ as Lord. We must be unified. We must live in Harmony. This means moving beyond the divisive pointless comments that are of zero importance to the kingdom of heaven. Your personal stance on most subjects is irrelevant. Do you think only Republicans or Democrats will be allowed into heaven? No? Then why be divided by that? Are you going to have to show your vaccine card as proof of your love to be allowed into heaven? No? Then why take a stance by which you have no reason to. Will you be showing your BLM Membership card to prove you are not a racist? NO? Why then be divided by such criteria. Is not your own heart enough.

There is stance where we cannot waiver and that is simply recognizing that JESUS IS LORD. Knowing that, believing that, living like that also causes division, but **HAS ETERNAL** consequences.

Let me read to you Ephesians chapter 4. It is meant to remind us of the how we first overcome our own divisions so that we can be the fullness of the body of Christ.

Do not give the devil a foothold. That foothold is breaking of the unity of the Spirit. Our flesh will battle within us on this topic, but don't let it win. Beat it into submission so that you can live as God would have us live. In harmony with one another.

Psa 133:1-3 NLT - 1 A song for pilgrims ascending to Jerusalem. A psalm of David. How wonderful and pleasant it is when brothers live together in harmony! 2 For harmony is as precious as the anointing oil that was poured over Aaron's head, that ran down his beard and onto the border of his robe. 3 Harmony is as refreshing as the dew from Mount Hermon that falls on the mountains of Zion. And there the LORD has pronounced his blessing, even life everlasting.