

The history of the early church shows this. We are told that the multitude of them that believed were of one heart and one soul; and not one of them said that aught of the things he possessed was his own; but they had all things common. The church was a unit in that period. It had little wealth. There were few people of learning or rank connected with it. Christianity was denounced as a base superstition; its adherents were called atheists. They are spoken of as if they were the filth of the world and the offscouring of all things. But they were united in Christ and filled with His Spirit and they were irresistible. The might of Rome went down in defeat before them. Gibbon has shown us how the banner of the Cross was erected in triumph over the ruins of the Capitol.

It was as clear as a sunbeam to Christ and His apostles that the energy and efficiency of the church would be in proportion to its unity. It is for this reason that so much thought and space are given to this topic in the New Testament. The factionist of that time was the heretic. Those who caused divisions and occasions of stumbling were to be marked and avoided. A house or a kingdom divided against itself could not stand. The Lord's work has been seriously hindered and crippled by divisions and by the evils that have followed in their train. Many seeing the condition of the church were scandalized and refused to have anything to do with it. At the present time the church is broken up into three main divisions and into a much greater number of subdivisions. There are Protestants and Catholics and Greeks. These have little in common. England has two hundred and eighty different kinds of Christians. We have about one hundred and fifty in America. There are seventeen branches of the Methodist family; twenty-two of the Lutheran; eight of the Catholic; thirteen of the Baptist; twelve of the Presbyterian; and six of the Adventist. Christendom is a veritable Babel. We know the effect of that upon thinking people.

In a village of a thousand people there is one school and six