

DISHARMONY AT HARMONY

Near where I grew up there was the town of Harmony. It was a nice, peaceful little town on the surface. But not all the citizens in Harmony harmonized. In Harmony there was a church named Harmony Baptist Church. In the natural course of events, all too human, disharmony developed in Harmony. To be precise, the disharmony in Harmony was in the Harmony Baptist Church! Today there are two Baptist Churches in Harmony: Harmony Baptist and New Harmony Baptist! They are less than a mile apart geographically but miles and miles apart harmoniously.

The epistle writer, Paul, wrote to two disharmonious damsels in the church in Philippi counseling them to “be of the same mind.” (Phil. 4:2) From the context we are led to think that whatever they were on the “outs” about was a minor issue but it caused major problems in the church.

I’m reminded of the story of the Pastor and Song Leader who were not getting along. The Song Leader took every opportunity to register his opposition to the Pastor. One week the Pastor spoke on “Commitment” and urged the members to dedicate themselves to service. The Song Leader chose, as the closing hymn, “I Shall Not Be Moved.” The next Sunday the Pastor spoke on, “Sacrificial Giving.” The Song Leader concluded the service with the hymn, “Jesus Paid It All.” The next week the Pastor’s message was on “Unity And Harmony.” The Song Leader ended the service with, “The Fight Is On.” The Pastor became so distraught over the situation that he announced on Sunday night that he was considering resigning. True to form, the Song Leader ended the service by leading the singing of, “Oh, Why Not Tonight?” The next Sunday morning the Pastor resigned. He said, at the conclusion of his announcement, “The Lord brought me here and the Lord is leading me to leave.” The Song Leader arose and led the concluding hymn, “What A Friend We Have In Jesus”!

When each member of the Body of Christ is submissive to the Head of the Church, the Lord Jesus Christ, harmony prevails. There will be no discord or division. The two churches to which I referred earlier, have for years advertised their disharmony by co-existing in the same town. It is honoring to the Head of The Church when we demonstrate our harmony by “living peaceably with all” (Rom. 12:18) and keeping “the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace.” (Eph. 4:3) We can then sing, “Blest Be The Tie That Binds”- in harmony!

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