

## Unity in diversity

**Anyone married over six months knows all about this**

**It is striking that married couples know how to have successful, happy marriages in spite of the differences they have**

**It is amazing that some of these same people come into a local church and find diverse beliefs and treat one another in ways they wouldn't think of acting toward their spouses.**

**Not suggesting there aren't times when we must separate ourselves from those in error (2 Jo. 9-11). But division and separation is not where we start.**

**Do we learn anything from Jesus about having fellowship with those with whom we differ?**

# Jesus and His twelve apostles

**The weaknesses of the twelve apostles**  
*Personal weaknesses*

➤ **Peter rebuked Jesus**  
*Mark 8:31-33*

➤ **Wanted to set fire to a Samaritan village**  
*Luke 9:54-55*

➤ **Wanted top spot in the kingdom**  
*Mark 10:35-38*

**The weaknesses of the twelve apostles**  
*Fear and faith*

➤ **Lack of bread**

*Matthew 16:5-11; Mark 8:14-21*

➤ **On Galilee in a storm**

*Matt. 8:23-26; Mk 4:35-40; Lk 8:22-25*

➤ **Walking on water**

*Matt 14:22-33; Mk 6:47-52; Jo 6:16-21*

➤ **Unable to cast out demon**

*Matt 17:14-20; John 6:8-9*

**The weaknesses of the twelve apostles**  
*Doctrinal problems*

➤ **Mistaken about kingdom**

*Mark 10:35-38*

➤ **Put Jesus on level with other men**

*Matt. 17:4*

➤ **Philip didn't see the Father in Jesus**

*John 14:8-9*

➤ **Didn't understand Jesus would be crucified**

*Mark 9:30-32*

**Jesus' evaluation of these men**

6 I have manifested Your name to **the men whom You gave Me out of the world**; they were Yours and You gave them to Me, and they have kept Your word. 7 Now they have come to know that everything You have given Me is from You; 8 for the words which You gave Me I have given to them; and they received them and truly understood that I came forth from You, and they believed that You sent Me. 9 I ask on their behalf; I do not ask on behalf of the world, but of those whom You have given Me; for they are Yours; 10 and all things that are Mine are Yours, and Yours are Mine; and I have been glorified in them.

**John 17:6-19**

6 I have manifested Your name to **the men whom You gave Me out of the world**; they were Yours and You gave them to Me, and **they have kept Your word**. 7 **Now they have come to know that everything You have given Me is from You**; 8 for the words which You gave Me I have given to them; and **they received them and truly understood that I came forth from You, and they believed that You sent Me**. 9 I ask on their behalf; I do not ask on behalf of the world, but of those whom You have given Me; **for they are Yours**; 10 and all things that are Mine are Yours, and Yours are Mine; and **I have been glorified in them**.

John 17:6-19



# Jesus and the seven churches in Asia

## Weaknesses in the seven churches

18 And to the angel of the church in Thyatira write: The Son of God, who has eyes like a flame of fire, and His feet are like burnished bronze, says this: 19 'I know your deeds, and your love and faith and service and perseverance, and that your deeds of late are greater than at first. 20 **But I have this against you, that you tolerate the woman Jezebel**, who calls herself a prophetess, and she teaches and leads My bond-servants astray so that they commit acts of immorality and eat things sacrificed to idols. 21 I gave her time to repent, and she does not want to repent of her immorality. 22 Behold, I will throw her on a bed of sickness, and those who commit adultery with her into great tribulation, unless they repent of her deeds. 23 And I will kill her children with pestilence, and all the churches will know that I am He who searches the minds and hearts; and I will give to each one of you according to your deeds. 24 **But I say to you, the rest who are in Thyatira**, who do not hold this teaching, who have not known the deep things of Satan, as they call them — I place no other burden on you. 25 Nevertheless **what you have, hold fast until I come.** 2:18-24

## Weaknesses in the seven churches

3 To the angel of the church in Sardis write: He who has the seven Spirits of God and the seven stars, says this: 'I know your deeds, that **you have a name that you are alive, but you are dead.** 2 Wake up, and strengthen the things that remain, which were about to die; **for I have not found your deeds completed in the sight of My God.** 3 So remember what you have received and heard; and keep it, and repent. Therefore if you do not wake up, I will come like a thief, and you will not know at what hour I will come to you. 4 **But you have a few people in Sardis who have not soiled their garments; and they will walk with Me in white, for they are worthy.** 5 He who overcomes will thus be clothed in white garments; and I will not erase his name from the book of life, and I will confess his name before My Father and before His angels. 6 He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches.' 3:1-6