

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

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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