

# 119

## MINISTRIES

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### **Divided by Truth or United in Error**

When confronted with the option, do we sacrifice truth for unity or unity for truth? Our Messiah himself said He came to bring a sword and NOT peace.

#### **Matthew 10:34**

Do not think that I have come to bring peace to the earth. I have not come to bring peace, but a sword.

So, where does that put his priority? Listen to what He says next.

#### **Matthew 10:35-36**

For I have come to set a man against his father, and a daughter against her mother, and a daughter-in-law against her mother-in-law. And a person's enemies will be those of his own household.

So much for unity. When you stand for the truth, no matter how much love you show, your enemies will be revealed, and you might be surprised just who they turn out to be. He then continues,

#### **Matthew 10:37-38**

Whoever loves father or mother more than me is not worthy of me, and whoever loves son or daughter more than me is not worthy of me. And whoever does not take his cross and follow me is not worthy of me.

Our allegiance to the Word of God is the utmost priority in the eyes of YHWH regardless of what it costs - even if it costs family, let alone friends or leadership. What was the sword that He brought that these verses speak of? It was the Word of God! All of the teachings of our Messiah was in bringing His people BACK to the Word. The Truth. He was the prophet that Moses spoke of in Deuteronomy.

#### **Deuteronomy 18:15-19 (see also Acts 3:22, John 6:14)**

“The Lord (YHWH) your God will raise up for you a prophet like me from among you, from your brothers—it is to him you shall listen— just as you desired of the Lord your God at Horeb on the day of the assembly, when you said, ‘Let me not hear again the voice of the Lord my God or see

this great fire any more, lest I die.’ And the Lord said to me, ‘They are right in what they have spoken. I will raise up for them a prophet like you from among their brothers. And I will put my words in his mouth, and he shall speak to them all that I command him. And whoever will not listen to my words that he shall speak in my name, I myself will require it of him.’”

It's the Word of God that the Messiah was preaching - the very words given through Moses. He called it a sword. Paul did the same.

### **Ephesians 6:17**

and take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God,

It's the Word of God that reveals truth. What is the definition of truth?

### **Psalms 119:142**

Thy righteousness is an everlasting righteousness, and thy law is truth.

No wonder he said he didn't come to abolish the law (Matthew 5:17-19). The law is the truth. Truth draws a line. It's a line of division. It's a line that forces a decision of choosing sides. It's that's simple - to crucify self or compromise; obedience or disobedience, light or darkness, wheat or tares, sheep or goats, wise or unwise. Is that not what the Messiah taught? It's in TRUTH (God's Law) that we are to strive for unity. This is what Paul taught.

### **Ephesians 4:11-13**

And he gave the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the shepherds and teachers, to equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ, until we all attain to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to mature manhood, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ, it was he who gave some to be apostles, some to be prophets, some to be evangelists, and some to be pastors and teachers, to prepare God's people for works of service, so that the body of Christ may be built up...

Note that it doesn't say, "Unity in peace," but rather in the faith. Unity of peace, however, removes the line of truth. Truth becomes subjective to the circumstances instead of vice versa. Truth becomes relative and no longer the standard to walk in. When peace and unity takes precedence, truth becomes an obscure background. What else does the Scriptures tell us about truth?

### **1 John 5:6**

This is he who came by water and blood—Jesus Christ (Messiah Yeshua); not by the water only but by the water and the blood. And the Spirit is the one who testifies, because the Spirit is the truth.

*The Spirit IS the truth...*

Interesting, isn't it? The law is the truth, the Spirit is truth, and it's the Spirit that puts the law in our hearts.

### **Ezekiel 36:27**

And I will put my Spirit within you, and cause you to walk in my statutes and be careful to obey my rules.

What else do we know about the Spirit?

**2 Corinthians 3:17**

Now the Lord is the Spirit, and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is freedom.

And what did the Messiah say about himself?

**John 14:6**

Jesus (Yeshua) said to him, "I am the (a) **way**, and (b) the **truth**, (c) and the **life**. No one comes to the Father except through me.

So then, the law is the truth. The Spirit is the truth. Yeshua is the Spirit, and Yeshua is the truth - talk about unity! There's actually more, but for the sake of time, let's stay on topic. Consider the following...

**Ephesians 4:3**

eager to maintain the **unity of the Spirit** in the bond of peace.

We see here that the unity we are to seek is that of unity of the Spirit - the Lord, the Truth, the law - **NOT** unity of peace. Let's read it again.

**Ephesians 4:3**

Make every effort to keep the **unity of the Spirit** through the bond of peace.

Consider these words of Yeshua in referring to our unity...

**John 17:22-23**

The glory that you have given me I have given to them, that they may be one even as we are one, I in them and you in me, that they may become perfectly one, so that the world may know that you sent me and loved them even as you loved me.

How does the Messiah say that we are perfected in unity here? It's by way of the Father in Yeshua and Yeshua in us. Think about this for a moment. First, the Father...

**John 1:1**

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.

Therefore, the Father was, and is, the Word. Then...

**John 1:14**

And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen his glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth.

This parallels...

**Colossians 1:19**

For in him all the fullness of God was pleased to dwell,

Therefore, all of the Word (*who is God*), dwells in Christ, and now that same Word is in us.

### **Colossians 3:16**

Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly, teaching and admonishing one another in all wisdom, singing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, with thankfulness in your hearts to God.

### **James 1:21**

Therefore put away all filthiness and rampant wickedness and receive with meekness the implanted word, which is able to save your souls.

So, are we to test everything in accordance to peace? Do we to test everything in accordance to unity? No. We test EVERYTHING to the Word - *who is YHWH, Yeshua, the Spirit, the truth, the law.*

### **Acts 17:11**

Now these Jews (Bereans) were more noble than those in Thessalonica; they received the word with all eagerness, examining the Scriptures daily to see if these things were so.

The Bereans didn't take everything Paul taught for the sake of unity. They tested everything he said to the Word (the sword) regardless of unity. What was the Scriptures for them? *It was the Old Testament, the TANAKH.* There was no New Testament yet, so everything Paul said HAD to be in agreement with the TANAKH. The Bereans were not focused on unity. They were focused on truth.

If unity, for the sake of unity and peace, was the focus of the Messiah, he wouldn't have confronted the Pharisees and teachers of the law. He would have gone along with them. But, as it is, we know His focus was on re-establishing the truth to His people. *If unity is not in truth, then it's in error. Let us say that again. If unity is not in truth, then it's in error. Remember, the people were in unity not long after Noah, however, that was not the unity the Father desired. The place became known as - Babel.* We don't trust leadership for the sake of peace or unity. We trust leadership when they are PROVEN by the Word. If someone says, "Trust us because we're your leadership," red flags should definitely pop up everywhere for you. If your leadership is not willing to be tested, then you need to STAND up and be the Berean - even under pressure. This needs to be done regardless of accusations that you are disturbing the unity or the peace of the congregation. The fact is you're calling for truth - God's truth. It's the truth that sets us free, not unity or peace.

***Our Messiah delivered the Word – the truth. The focus of the believers' walk is to be truth - the Word.***

Everyone is accountable to being a Berean. Everyone is accountable to the Word, ESPECIALLY teachers.

### **James 3:1**

Not many of you should become teachers, my brothers, for you know that we who teach will be judged with greater strictness.

Authority ONLY COMES FROM THE WORD. If one teaches something outside of the Word, then they are outside of God and NO ONE is obligated to submit to that authority. In fact, you are to flee from this leadership and be the watchman on the wall that calls it out.

*Be the Berean. Test everything. It is better to be divided by truth than united in error.*

We hope you've enjoyed this study. Remember to test everything.

Shalom.

For more on this and other teachings, please visit us at [www.testeverything.net](http://www.testeverything.net)

**Shalom, and may Yahweh bless you in walking in the whole Word of God.**

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