

Schisms

- 1. Bible does not condone **schisms** or divisions in local-Church.
- 2. However the Bible does condone & encourage **separation**.
- 3. The distinction in these two words: **schisms** & **separation** is seen in two Greek words: **schisma** & **aphorizo**
- **Schisma**—division, split, schisms, & is always used in a negative connotation in N.T.
- **Aphorizo**-to separate...

- 4. The difference in these two words is the **cause** of the division or separation.
Schisms—divisions where self is the issue: me
- **Aphorizo**—refers to separation where doctrinal truth is the issue.

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| • 5. Separation (aphorizo)
(schisma) | Division |
| • 1. basis of separation is truth | 1. individual is basis |
| • 2. Unites | 2. destroys |
| • 3. Strengthens | 3. weakens |
| • 4. puts emph. on truth | 4. puts emph. on self |
| • 5. guided by Spiritual Love | 5. guided by
arrogance |

- 6. Some passages on **aphorizo**—separation:
- **Matt. 13:49; 25:32; Lk. 6:22; Acts 19:9; 2 Cor. 6:17; & Gal. 2:12**—false doc. can cause you to separate from truth. Legalist!
- Now a few passages on **schisma**—divisions
- **GJ 7:43; 9:16; 1 Cor. 11:18 & 1 Cor. 12:25**
- With this in mind...**Col. 3:14 & Eph. 4:3**
- 7. The goal is not unity in & of itself—it is unity in truth & in Spiritual Love led by the Holy Spirit
- (just as politically peace at any cost is not worth the peace)
- If you give up Spiritual truth for unity—you lose--**spiritually**

- 8. The Goal of local church is the glorification of Christ, not the I-c itself or P-T nor it's members...
- 9. The reason for most schisms in I-c is linked to ignorance of truth, & or occupation with self, & wrongful goals...
- 10. Schisms start in the mind...this is place of battle.
- 11. Schisms are characterized by ego factions—coming up in 1 Cor. 1. Emph. on Legalism---self, what I do or don't do.
- Emph. on charasmatics...me! & my speaking in tongues.
- Emph. on praise & worship---self—me---how I feel

- 12. Schisms usually emph. the application of certain doctrines but not the doctrines themselves. Again, making self the issue! Stop judging others!
- 13. Schisms usually threatens the inner coherence of the local assembly & therefore inter-fears with others growth in Scripture & the witness of the local church in the community, or its outreach for Christ.

- 14. The Real problem with Schism is not so much in what they say about themselves but how they attack others in the assembly.
- (Ann Frank Museum in Amsterdam)
- In local church when a group starts criticizing others in the assembly—this is when the danger arises from Schisms
- 15. Solution to Schisms—Spiritual Love in Holy Spirit, thoughtfulness of others...their growth in the Word; & growth of the whole assembly in the Word of God & spreading of the gospel of Jesus Christ.