

Destructive Division

“Jesus ... said to them, “Any kingdom divided against itself will be ruined, and a house divided against itself will fall.” (Luke 11:17, NIV)

Ideally all people live in obedience to God’s laws and principles, be it in personal life, family setup, professional or corporate context, leadership in all social systems and all government levels, thus leaving no room for division, anywhere. Yet, current reality renders this to be wishful thinking as the majority of the Earth’s population still doesn’t care a fig for God and, in view of the state of this world, Christianity doesn’t appear to have her acts sorted.

Think of all the fighting and bickering between factions, interest groups, political parties, religious denominations, and what have you, no matter on which level and in what context, hampering unity and healthy progress. Too many turncoat leaders, adjusting their conviction based on what wins them a majority vote in organizations, communities, villages, cities, regions, and countries, influence our future and betray their electorate.

Even if justifiably favored to its antonym dictatorship, democracy is all too often uncritically hailed as the best solution of rule, even amongst Christians. Although democracy (essentially the rule of majority vote) has no place in business context, not even in public companies, questioning it as God’s chosen form of government in any other sphere of life means looking for trouble. Yet where is the difference between man’s push for democracy all over the world in all areas of life and a kingdom or house divided against itself, since both reveal disunity in the camp, a breeding ground for disaster according to Jesus?

Years ago I heard an American Bible teacher justifying democracy as scriptural. Father, Son and Holy Spirit would show its purest form as they would always agree outright, he argued. Its a questionable logic as not even a single Bible passage reveals a discussion, reasoning and voting process between the Three to reach a majority (or in their case, unity) vote on things. Quite the contrary. Acts 1:7b brings to light that the Father is autarkic, acting by His own choice, authority and power. The Holy Spirit acts on God’s command (John 16:13). And Jesus left us with compelling evidence that He Himself could only act successfully on His Father’s instruction (John 5:19+30+43, 8:28-29+38+55, 9:4, 10:18, 12:49, 14:10+31, 17:2-8).

Why then do even believers surrender so easily to the status quo of a form of life ruled by majority vote as if it was ironclad and inescapable? In Luke 11:17 Jesus spoke of ‘will be’ and ‘will’ and not of ‘may be’ and ‘might’. So inevitable is only the destruction coming from division in the camp! The German Christian Democratic Party (the name is contradiction in itself) delivered a point in case when it proudly announced a Muslim woman as Minister of Social Affairs and Integration in Lower Saxony. Her first agenda point? Removing all symbols of Christianity from public schools! Thats just perfect, isn’t it? Perhaps finding the least common ground with the world isn’t God’s favored solution for true believers after all?

Jesus, for one, never looked for it with the world, religions, denominations. So why do we? Aren’t we meant to follow in the His footsteps (Matthew 16:24, Mark 8:34, Luke 9:23, 14:27), emulating His example (John 13:15, 15:10, 1 Corinthians 11:1)? Jesus stated unmistakably, “Apart from me you can do nothing.” (John 15:5) Therefore it should never be about what we like, prefer or want, never about a majority vote on issues, but always about God’s plans and purposes for us, individually as well as corporately. Our surrender to the Lord’s will, just like Jesus’ culminating surrender to the Father’s will in Gethsemane (Matthew 26:42).

As community of believers we are likened to one body. A body doesn’t function based on majority vote of its members! Its the head that gives instructions and the members act in obedience, complementing each other. Likewise, we should stick with what our Lord is saying instead of diluting clear cut biblical truth to find the least common ground with the world, as that would only display destructive division. Lets rather stand up for what is godly, right and biblical, every time, and everywhere, no matter what happens!