

Message 10

Problems and Misunderstandings

*That cause confusion, weakness and unnecessary,
unbiblical divisions among Fundamentalists*

1. The idea that Biblical commands concerning unity and separation are **mutually exclusive** —
 - ◆ that somehow the commands concerning love and unity **don't rightly apply** to Fundamentalists.
2. Failure to distinguish between various categories of truth that we teach and preach, preaching all of them with the same level of authority;
 - ◆ insisting that everything we believe and practice regardless of whether or not it is *clearly* taught in Scripture (column 1 truth) is essential to Fundamentalism —
 - ◆ and therefore, a test of fellowship – e.g. *exclusivists*.
3. The inability to distinguish between **fellowship** on an individual basis and joint **participation** on a church basis —
 - ◆ to recognize that fellowship on an individual basis does not require agreement on all minor details —
 - ◆ and regarding such fellowship as compromise.
4. Failure to regard *obedience* (to clear commands of Scripture) to be equally essential to Fundamentalism with *belief* (of clearly revealed truth), and
 - ◆ the resulting erroneous assumption that mere agreement on six or seven fundamental *doctrines* makes one a Fundamentalist.
5. Relating Fundamentalism to **personalities** rather than to clearly taught Biblical **principles**,
 - ◆ along with failure to **understand and identify** these principles.
6. Confusing **cultural traditions** and certain **methods or philosophies of ministry** with **timeless fundamental truth** and **clearly revealed Biblical principles**;
 - ◆ assuming that conformity to certain outward standards and practices makes one a Fundamentalist.
7. Failure to regard the *clear* Biblical commands concerning separation (from apostates and willfully disobedient brethren) as essential to a Fundamentalist position.
8. Confusing **combativeness** with **militancy**, and a **gentle spirit** with **compromise** — substituting **name-calling** for a clear exposition of **Biblical principles** and insistence on the practice of those principles.
9. Evaluating a man's position based on **where he is in the present** rather than the **direction where he is headed**. Some men who are very close to us in position will soon be far away, and some who are quite a distance away in the present may some day join us in the Fundamentalist movement.