

# Grace and Fellowship

**Psalms 133:1**

## Introduction:

- A. No informed person denies that brethren have divided over basic doctrinal issues.
  - 1. Issues causing division between churches of Christ & Christian churches.
  - 2. Issues causing division between “conservative” and “liberal” churches of Christ
- B. Concerned persons have asked, “How can we restore unity and fellowship between these brethren?”
  - 1. Change convictions through Bible study.
  - 2. Compromise convictions for sake of unity.
  - 3. Construct a rationale for “unity in diversity”.

## Discussion:

### **I. The Rationale Offered to Such Unity and Fellowship by Some Is Rooted in Calvinism.**

- A. Imputed righteousness.<sup>1</sup>
- B. “Doctrine” - “Gospel” distinction.
  - 1. Artificial distinction. (1 Tim. 1:10,11)
    - a. “Gospel” and “doctrine” In Romans (1:15; 10:16; 6:17,18).
    - b. Transgressing “doctrine” breaks fellowship. (2 Jn. 9)
      - (1) Not just Doctrine about Christ’s deity.
      - (2) Referred to as truth, commandments. (vv. 1-2,4).
      - (3) Similar expressions. (Rev. 2:14,15)
  - 2. Doctrine is cause to “mark and avoid” (Rom. 16:15,16).
  - 3. Gospel involves Christian’s behavior. (Gal. 2:5,14ff).
- C. Misconceptions of Grace and Law.
  - 1. Perversion of 1 John 1:7-10.
  - 2. Unconditional grace for Christians.
- D. Mistaken views of consistency.
  - 1. Think all differences must treated alike.
  - 2. Think must either tolerate all difference or none.
  - 3. Fail to discern differences in differences.
    - a. Matters that are not threat to the faith or unity.
    - b. Matters that are basically individual in application.

### **II. The Rationale Offered for Bible Unity Is Quite Different.**

- A. “Keep the unity of the Spirit” (Eph. 4:1-4)
  - 1. Maintain unity established by the Spirit. (2:18).
  - 2. Three parties to unity. (2:14-17).
- B. Wisdom from above. (James 3:17, 18).
- C. Basis of the appeal for unity in Eph. 4 (one’s).
- D. Not unity within every wind of doctrine. (4:11-16).

## Conclusion:

- A. Divisions caused by solely by attitude can be healed with change of attitude.
- B. Divisions caused different basic convictions healed by changing convictions.

1.”But there is a sphere where sin is not imputed to the sinner and that sphere is in Christ” “Christ is ... a representative law-keeper who justifies other by His obedience” (Edward Fudge, G.G., 2/12/70).