

September 1996 Asher

Devoted to Fellowship

We must be able to hear concerns that people have about ourselves without jumping to conclusions, especially the conclusion that they are mis-representing us or "just don't understand" us. The Body of Messiah in each location *is* as 1 Tim 2:8 and Psalms 133 say; but for us to be as 1 Cor 1:10, *all* must be devoted to Acts 2:42. *This is the distinguishing difference* (Mal 3:18) which is the fruit and witness of the kingdom. (Mt 21:43; 24:14)

It is such a challenge to listen to everyone's opinions and not be insensitive to the Holy Spirit. If a brother or sister has concern over whether we have the right mind about things, it should be in us to seek out those who do have the right mind, and not just "brush off" the concern. We must assure one another that we care about having one mind. Failure to do this will cause a lack of peace.

Our unity is not an automatic thing that just "happens". Whenever we sense that we don't see or think quite the same about something we need to make it a priority to seek one another out and discuss things. Otherwise, there is room for undercurrents to develop. This is part of what being devoted to fellowship is — participation, interaction, contribution, etc. of our thoughts and feelings.

Even though we could say, "I know my heart is to be in unity with my brothers," it should be that our speech and actions would not leave any room for doubt concerning this. Any relationship we have should strengthen the faith and courage of our brothers. We can't just demand that people "know our hearts" or "understand where we are coming from". We have to have an attitude and disposition that would cause people to be able to do that. If we are sensitive to the Holy Spirit in how we communicate and show affection for our brothers and sisters, then the adversary will never have an opportunity to divide us.

Sometimes our relationships are like those cola glasses we used to have in our restaurants: easily upset or disturbed, having a great potential of spilling out and making a mess.

Then the company came out with these other glasses:

They were just the opposite of the first glasses, and they weren't very attractive, but they were much more stable. In a way, our friendships should be like those ugly cola glasses — plain, humble, and stable.

