

March 13, 1996 Asher

Inspect the Parts

*(Letter to the Shepherds)*

1 Cor 3:1-3 — ... *for if there are quarrels among you*. So, what do we think 1 Tim 2:8 means, anyway? If there are some who are arguing among you — that is what dissension among you means! We don't know anything about the teaching if we allow one person to be in dissension among you when you lift up a sacrifice, for it spoils the whole sacrifice. We had better inspect the parts better.

We can't just split people up who are having a hard time with one another without dealing with the causes. (Our safeguard from such errors is being able to hear from the least who lack peace about the decisions which are made.) All that would do would be to put them in a position where they could function in the flesh better without it being exposed. Such people are obviously in the flesh. Surely they will disturb the sheep that are around them when they hear them arguing. Arguing takes away all our credibility as the people of God, for our witness that YHWH sent His son is that we love one another and stay in unity.

You had better watch out after the sheep like Heb 13:17 says. It is not good that such people would be allowed to continue in the sacrifices. The circumstances that bring these things out of people's lives are used by our Abba to reveal where they are spiritually. We do not move people around to make it comfortable for the flesh. When we do that we will just end up having a "nice organization" without the Spirit. It will be Christianity all over again. . . even IBM could do better than that.

So, as Matthew 18 says, if there is trouble you need to carry through with it all the way to a Qahal (Eph 4:29-32). The whole New Testament is full of the reasons that the first church fell, and we must be careful to not tolerate those things. Surely, all the praise has been taken from the mouths of men like that — they don't come to the minchah and praise, do they? So, the house fell because of Heb 3:6 (*to boast* is the outspokenness in our minchah). So, this tearing down the house is by both quarreling *and* by not judging the men who do these things.

Here is a quote from our new Freepaper, "Subverted, perverted people cannot help but subvert God's plans and purposes, therefore tolerating divisions (1 Cor 3:16-17)." This is a quote from an article entitled, "What does God Expect the Church to be Like in Every Place?" (page 11) So, we condemn the harlot for tolerating division...

The *therefore* in verse 8 (1 Tim 2:8), is there because of verse 1 — thus, if you want your prayers to be answered you cannot tolerate dissension. We can't treat problems like this superficially, as if this were just an organization.

We want peace to be the fruit of our ministry in the Body.