

3 April 1993

3 April 1993, Shabbat, Morning Sacrifice Londrina, Brazil

Potential for Division; Strife

After spending three years with the Ephesians, Paul wrote to them warning, "*Even from among yourselves, men will try to rise up and lead away a following.*" If Paul said this to the Ephesians, you can see there was a potential there to divide. And you can see, as well, the great potential today in any and every group, for division to come in and destroy it. And it will happen unless the Holy Spirit is in control of each person's mind. That is why any potential for division in us has to be taken to the cross and crucified — it is the flesh. That is why everything in you needs to be proved. So anything in you that has the potential to divide has to be destroyed. You are the body of Messiah. Anyone who destroys the body of Messiah will be destroyed. If there is anything you have in you that would cause division between you and your brothers, you have to surrender it to Messiah. That is, if you are a co-worker with Messiah, working with His Spirit. You are either for Messiah or against Him, with or against, gathering or scattering. If you are not doing something with all your heart, you are scattering. If we are with Him, we will gather. If not, with our passivity, we will scatter. So remember that. That is why we come every morning to surrender everything that would cause division. That is how we maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace. This is how we establish order that is among us: by being completely humble, bearing with one another in their weaknesses and faults — even in the leaders.

It is each person's part to submit to the grace of our Father. If we don't submit, we don't belong to Messiah — we didn't receive fear of Him when He was preached to us. If we have received Him, we all, without exception (especially the leaders), have a healthy godly fear.

When our Master left his apostles, he said to make disciples, and baptize them in His name and His Father's name and in His Spirit and teach them everything that I taught you for the last three years. So He trusted His apostles that there would be unity — without factions, dissensions or differences of opinion. Not even unity in diversity, not even agreeing to disagree, but oneness as the Father and the Son are one — submission, — standing on the side of authority. If we don't stand on the side of authority, when any occasion arises to divide, we will divide. But if we stand

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on the side of authority, when problems come up, we will be able to work it out — maintain that peace. We will work it out — the truth will prevail.

[You have here in Naftali, Nahaliel. And Manoah is a support to him. Our Father is establishing Nahaliel here and Manoah is a support to him, though Nahaliel submits to the grace that Manoah has in certain areas. If Manoah is with Messiah and has the Holy Spirit, he will be submissive, he will be a co-worker and be supportive to the authority that is being established here. We also have other responsible brothers that are being raised up in certain areas, but they are not regarded as elders because hands have not been laid upon them, though in time they will be — as those able to teach the word of God, able to control their families, hospitable, kind. They will be approved by God, they will be in perfect unity with one another, in perfect peace, an example of the peace and unity of the Father and the Son, they will be humble and considerate.

No one ever became an elder by strife. If there is strife in you, you will cause strife in the Body. We are going to establish the authority here so that you can recognize it, agree with it, support it. We want to be able to get reports of how you are striving for the unity of the faith — that there is no strife in your midst. If there is anything that can cause strife in the Body, go to responsible brothers. If there is any strife in us, then when we come to offer our bodies now, we are doing a useless thing — if our minds are not stayed on YAHSHUA. We are to be peacemakers like our Master — blessed are the peacemakers.