LifeBridge BAPTIST CHURCH

Worship Service
November 22, 2020
Pastor Chris Regas

Protecting Gospel Unity

CREATIVE ACCESS: Persevering to Advance the Gospel in Hard Places

Lesson Five • Romans 16:17-20

Gospel Unity Is a PRECIOUS Gift in Christ.
As a church, we must be vigilant to protect it.

Gospel Unity ADVANCES the Gospel Mission.
Paul interrupts his unifying greetings to drive this point home.

Why the Interruption?

- Paul's *present* **PURPOSE** is *unity*.
- Paul's *past* **PROBLEMS** with *disunity*.
- Paul's *future* **PLANS** to advance the gospel.

Three Ways to Protect Gospel Unity

1. Learn to DISCERN What Causes Disunity.

*False teachers with their false teaching **CAUSE** divisions in the church that hinders the advance of the gospel.*

➤ Learn to discern their **DIVISIVE** presence. *(v. 17)*

➤ Learn to discern their **DECEPTIVE** words. *(v. 18)*

➤ Learn to discern their **DESTRUCTIVE** fruit.

1. False Fruit **DIVIDES** the local church. *(v. 17)*
2. False Fruit **DISOBEYS** the Lord. *(v. 18; Romans 6:17-18)*
3. False Fruit **DECEIVES** the undiscerning. *(v. 18)*
4. False Fruit **DAMNS** the deceived. *(Jude 4)*
5. False Fruit **DERAILS** the mission to reach the unreached. *(Jude 3)*
6. False Fruit is **DEMONIC** in its origins. *(v. 20; 1Timothy 4:1-3)*

2. Learn to DEFEND What Promotes Unity.

➤ **TURN AWAY** from false teachers. *(v. 17)*

➤ **HOLD FAST** to sound doctrine. *(v. 17)*

➤ **LIVE OUT** gospel obedience. *(vv. 18-19)*

➤ **BE WISE** in advancing the gospel. *(v. 19)*

3. Learn to DEPEND on the Almighty Trinity.

➤ Depend on the Father's victorious **PLAN**.
"The God of peace will soon crush Satan under your feet." (v. 20)

➤ Depend on the Son's marvelous **GRACE**.
"The grace of our Lord Jesus be with you." (v. 20)

➤ Depend on the Spirit's judicious **TRUTH**.
"... greater is He who is in you than he who is in the world." (1John 4:1-6)

Only as we depend on the Almighty Trinity will we be able to learn how to protect our gospel unity in hard times.

"The gospel is Trinitarian, and the Trinity is the gospel." - Fred Sanders