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What Was It That Ye Disputed Among Yourselves By The Way?

Wyatt Sawyer

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WHAT WAS IT THAT YE DISPUTED AMONG YOURSELVES BY THE WAY? Mark 9:33-37

Jesus made His Apostolic selections carefully—based on the man's potential worth.

INT:

The twelve represent the best the world had to offer. They were still human beings after their selections. Disappointments expected in the Lord's church.

I. DISPUTES AMONG CHRISTIANS WILL COME.

- A. All usually think Christians are heavenly saints - (holy), only to find them earthly saints.
- B. Christians are not examples of perfection, but struggling sinners. Rom. 3:23.
- C. Mistakes and blunders will be made even by good Christians. Luke 17:1.
- D. We should condition ourselves to expect such conduct from weak and frail human beings.
 1. Apostles argued about who's greatest. Text.
 2. Paul scorched Peter for weakness. Gal. 2:11.
 3. Paul and Barnabas locked horns. Acts 15:36-41.
- E. The important thing now is how they are settled.

DISPUTES AMONG CHRISTIANS WILL BE KNOWN.

- A. Enemies of the church eagerly await such news so they may mock and scoff at the Lord's body.
- B. Sometimes the members are responsible for such adverse publicity. I Cor. 6:1-7.
 1. Eugene Smith and Grand Prairie congregation.
 2. W. B. Andrews and C. E. Neves squabble.
- C. Christ knows about the disputes without being told.
- D. All should stop to think about the adverse publicity and harm to the church before starting something.

SHI. WHY DO DISPUTES ARISE?

- A. Error or misunderstanding is the basis of all.
 1. The Apostles vied for supremacy.
 - a. Lazy ones wanted to be served.
 - b. Proud ones wanted to be honored. Chief seats.
 - c. Contrary ones just wanted their way.
 - (1) If you suggested it I'm 100% for it. If Bro. So and So did I'm 100% against it.
- B. Basis of the Apostle's troubles: Sin and Misunderstanding.
 1. Error noted in argument about greatness.
 2. Sin was basis of Paul's rebuke of Peter.
 3. Misunderstanding the basis of Paul's and Barnabas's dispute.

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IV. ALL DISPUTES CAN BE SETTLED BY THE CHRISTIAN SPIRIT.

- A. Jesus taught the Apostles humility. Gal. 5:13.
 - 1. Washed their feet. John 13:1-9.
 - 2. Be like little children. Matt. 18:1-6.
- B. Peter apparently took Paul's rebuke gracefully.
- C. Paul and Barnabas separated to avoid further unpleasantness. Not backbiters etc.
- D. All disputes will be settled successfully if all want to be Christian and work at it.

INV: Most serious dispute is our trouble with God because of our sin. Takes a godly attitude. B-R-C-B.

Erring Christians need to repent and pray to settle all difficulties with the Lord.

THE CHURCHES

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1. The churches are the body of Christ.

2. The churches are the people of God.

3. The churches are the people of the world.

4. The churches are the people of the universe.

5. The churches are the people of the whole earth.

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