

GLASGOW, KENTUCKY MARCH 31, 1968INTRODUCTION

"Salute one another with an holy kiss." This was the customary mode of salutation at the time. Some thoughts from the "holy kiss" :

1. It speaks to us of friendliness and brotherly kindness among Christians which is much needed in the churches of Christ today.
2. How many Christians pass in and out of the same building, eat together at the Lord's Table, and never exchange greetings with one another?
3. Our profession of friendship for Christ is not worth much if we are not willing to make friends with the brethren.
4. More attention and kindness toward other Christians should be the goal of all Christians.
  1. Today, the hand-shake is the usual greeting among friends.

THE CHURCHES OF CHRIST SALUTE YOURomans 16:16The salutation is from:1. ALL THE CHURCHES OF CHRIST

1. The term, churches of Christ, denotes ownership. They belong to Christ because:
  1. He built them as he said in Matthew 16:18.
  2. He purchased them with his own blood: as Paul said in Acts 20:28.
  3. Why should any churches proposing to be Christ's church be called by any other names?

FOMENTERS OF DISCORDRomans 16:17, 18

Two groups in contrast:

1. A bright galaxy of Christian stars has been enumerated in this chapter. 16:3-15
  1. These "lights of the sky" are put in contrast to those wandering will-o-wisps which lead men astray in darkness and quagmires of destruction.
2. Some persons to be shunned, or marked. Romans 16:17, 18. They are:
  1. "Those which cause divisions and offences contrary to the doctrine which he have learned." Rom. 16:17
  2. To break up "the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace" is a sure method of placing a stumbling block in the path of many.
    1. far more harm to the body of Christ has come from this source than has ever resulted from outside attacks.
  3. These wanton promoters of strife have a personal end to gain. What is that end?:
    1. In 2 Cor. 11:13-14 Paul speaks of such individuals as, 13-...false apostles, deceitful workers, transforming themselves into the apostles of Christ. 14-And no marvel; for Satan himself is transformed into an angel of light. 15-Therefore it is not great thing if his ministers also be transformed as the ministers of righteousness; whose end shall be according to their works."
    2. The end to be gained is:
      1. They "serve their own belly." How do they do this?:
      2. There is involved a base desire for their own gratification.
      3. They may aim at and seek for notoriety among brethren. They want to distinguish themselves one way or another.
3. The point at which we are to mark them. "...offences (teaching) contrary to the doctrine which ye have learned." Rom. 16:17. Some examples of "offences contrary to doctrine" and their rise among us.
  1. The rise of the missionary society and instrumental music in the worship.
  2. The rise of the "one cup" doctrine regarding the fruit of the vine in the Lord's Supper.
  3. The rise of the anti "Bible class" doctrine among us.
  4. The more recent rise of the anti-brethren on the care of orphans resulting in their "Saints only" doctrine. We are to mark such brethren. Who got these up?
    1. They were all gotten up by preachers. Not a single elder ever thought of such "offences contrary to the doctrine which ye have learned."

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RESIDENCE: 651-5409  
CHURCH: 651-5001

# Church of Christ

SOUTH GREEN STREET GLASGOW, KENTUCKY 42141

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(PAGE TWO)

THE STRENGTH OF THE CHURCH      Romans 16:19,20

1. The strength of the church is not:
  1. Necessarily in its numbers. Gideon's army was one time too large. "The people that are with thee are too many," the Lord said in Judges 7:2-7.
    1. With the help of the Lord, Gideon did with 300 men what he thought would require 32,000 to accomplish.
  2. Necessarily in its wealth.
    1. Wealth (money) has more often been the weakness of the church rather than its strength.
2. Two factors determine the strength of the church. They are:
  1. Obedience. "Your obedience has come abroad unto all men." Romans 16:19
    1. Even so, beware of seducers lest you might be seduced by them. That is good advice to all.
  2. God's presence with them. "The God of peace shall bruise Satan under your feet shortly." Romans 16:20
    1. **The Christian at war with the world.** The strife is fierce, but it shall not be a protracted struggle.
      1. God will "bruise Satan under your feet shortly."

THE COMPREHENSIVE DOXOLOGY      Romans 16:25-27

1. DOXOLOGY: Praise, power, all glory to God.
  1. Example: "Praise God from whom all blessings flow."
  2. A doxology would involve such attributes as: TRUTH, POWER, WISDOM, BENEVOLENCE, GOODNESS.

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3. V. CONFIRMATION - This is a solemn and sacred ordinance which is administered to those who have been baptized and who are desirous of being added to the church of Christ. It is a public declaration of their faith in the Lord Jesus Christ and their willingness to abide by His commands and to remain in His love.

THE CONFIRMATION SERVICE Form No. 10:52-53

1. The pastor shall read the following words to the candidate:  
2. The candidate shall answer the following questions:  
3. The pastor shall administer the following prayer:  
4. The candidate shall receive the following benediction:  
5. The pastor shall pronounce the following blessing:  
6. The candidate shall receive the following prayer:  
7. The candidate shall receive the following benediction:  
8. The candidate shall receive the following prayer:  
9. The candidate shall receive the following benediction:  
10. The candidate shall receive the following prayer:

THE BLESSING OF THE CHURCH Form No. 10:70-75

(Text of the blessing)

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CHURCH OF CHRIST