

II. Conflict & controversy.

The world now says conflict & controversy are good, + some people in the churches have adopted such views. But this is wrong. ~~It~~ If we get into these things it will destroy our life together. [Controversy \neq questioning and disagreeing.]

A. Controversy (etc.) destroys love. It's impossible to truly love one another in an atmosphere of conflict + controversy, you can't say to people, "Come and see how much we love one another," if we have lots of conflict. In the U/C people do love one another + that must come ~~up~~ before conflict. We don't suppress criticism, but we teach against it - it is fatal. If we allow criticism, we won't be a unity of love.

B. Gal. 5: 19, 22. Enmity, strife, jealousy, dissention, criticism, controversy, party spirit, dissention = works of the flesh = sin. Don't do these things. We live close enough so we can see the problem of these things.

III. What to do about actual problems?

There is no guarantee that there won't be serious problems ^{w/o} serious approaches to these problems.

1. Reproof + admonition: When you see a problem, go to the person responsible. Otherwise you betray a trust. You shouldn't even go to a priest or minister first, before going to the person responsible.
2. Next go to the next person - the head of the pot person. Tell the last person what you're going to do. (a) You need to actually do this.
(b) You need to be clear ^{and direct} about the problem. Don't be over-polite + over-nice.
3. Next go to the coordinator or head coordinator.

There is no procedure or mechanism to keep bad things from happening. All we have is a " " to deal with problems. Our protection is 1) our love for one another 2) our ability to speak the truth to one another.

3) our faith in the Lord: only He can successfully pull off ~~it~~ In unity. It is tremendously important that we are committed to love ~~one~~ another above all else.