

That Even The Church

Linville Dunaway, Corinth Christian Church

A brother spoke some time ago of hearing of a sinner that was recently saved. He said that a man prayed for the new convert and in his prayer said, "Lord make him so strong in the faith that even the church can't destroy him." I thought that sounded strange at first, but the more I thought on it, I decided that the man had a point.

It is a shame that everything doesn't go as it should, even in church. Why? Because the church is made up of people trying to live for the Lord, but hindered by the flesh. The church is a family, and like any family there are problems at times. At church we are encouraged and helped by our family of believers, but sometimes egos get in the way. II Corinthians 12: 20. For I fear, lest, when I come, I shall not find you such as I would, and that I shall be found unto you such as ye would not: lest there be debates, envyings, wraths, strifes, backbit-

ings, whisperings, swellings, tumults. At Corinth, Galatia, and other churches the scriptures warn of the flesh having too much influence in their lives. Galatians 5:15. But if ye bite and devour one another, take heed that ye be not consumed one of another.

Make no mistake about it, these were churches who believed in the Lord. We might like to think that everything went perfect among them, but such was not the case. The same holds true for us today. We believe, we want to be pleasing to the Lord, but the truth is that most problems that arise come about because of our pride, or egos, that influence our actions. When conflict arises there is harm done to the church. Sometimes there is a split in the body of Christ which should never take place. Some individuals get hurt and even quit coming to church.

Psalms 55:12-14, "For it was not an enemy that reproached me; then I could have borne it: neither was it he that hated me that did magnify himself against me; then I would have hid myself from him: But it was thou, a man mine equal, my guide,

and mine acquaintance. We took sweet counsel together, and walked unto the house of God in company." We can expect to be mocked, shunned, and scorned by the world, but it hurts when those that do it are part of the church. Many sincere Christians are ignored by churches because they are not as well educated, or are poor. They may be looked down on as being nothing because their congregation is small. I think sometimes small churches are like poor relatives that a person may hate to claim because they are not desirable.

A small church, or a simple person may, and can, love and serve the Lord. The Lord judged the widow's mite, to be more than the great sums that the rich gave to the treasury. God doesn't look on things as man does, he looks on the heart. Also, God looks on us with love, while man may look with scorn, or contempt. Beware, if you, in your pride look down on a person, or church. You may count them unworthy, and of no importance, but remember that while you judge them, God will judge you.

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THE SEVEN DAY KING!

ZIMRI, A GENERAL UNDER ELAH, KING OF ISRAEL, KILLED THE KING DURING A DRUNKEN REVEL AND TOOK THE THRONE OF ISRAEL FOR HIMSELF! TO MAKE SURE THAT THE KINGDOM WOULD REMAIN IN HIS HANDS, HE MURDERED EVERY MEMBER OF ELAH'S FAMILY—BROTHERS, WIVES, SONS, INFANTS—TO MAKE SURE THERE WOULD BE NO HEIRS TO CLAIM THE THRONE IN ELAH'S NAME! BUT...



... THIS STRATEGY BACKFIRED ON ZIMRI! HIS OWN ARMY, ON HEARING OF THIS VICIOUS SLAUGHTER, WAS SO HORRIFIED THAT ITS MEN MARCHED AGAINST ZIMRI'S PALACE, WHERE THE KING-FOR-A-WEEK SET FIRE TO THE ROYAL DOMICILE, PREFERRING TO DIE RATHER THAN FACE THE BRAND OF STERN JUSTICE HIS FORMER SOLDIERS WOULD MOST CERTAINLY ADMINISTER TO HIM—FOR, IN ONE WEEK, ZIMRI HAD CAUSED AS MUCH MISERY AS MOST OTHER TYRANTS ACCOMPLISHED IN A LIFETIME OF RULE!

NEXT WEEK: SING UNTO THE LORD!

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