

Jesus Christ AND that divisive power

divisive [di'vaɪsɪv] *adj* 1. causing or tending to cause disagreement or dissension

John 15:23-25 *"He who hates Me hates My Father also. (24) "If I had not done among them the works which no one else did, they would not have sin; but now they have both seen and hated Me and My Father as well. (25) "But they have done this to fulfill the word that is written in their Law, 'THEY HATED ME WITHOUT A CAUSE.'*

Jesus came to reveal His Father. In that revelation He showed the Father to be One Who loves without exception, Who desires to free and heal, deliver and redeem. How would that EVER BE DIVISIVE?!!!

BUT IT WAS. It was and it still is!

Jesus came as the KING of one kingdom and those who hated Him were members of another kingdom and were serving another king. The two kings have been unalterably opposed to one another throughout the ages. The war is an intense unremitting mortal conflict.

When Perfect Love walked among us here on earth those of the kingdom of darkness HATED HIM WITH A VIOLENT AND UNREASONING HATRED SO He could honestly say, , *'THEY HATED ME WITHOUT A CAUSE.'* Eventually they brought false charges against Him and murdered Him, but that did not end the war; the war goes on and on... and on.....

> The war of these two spiritual kingdoms is a war between <

GOD and anti-God [satan]

TRUTH and anti-truth

LIGHT and darkness

The Kingdom of LIGHT and the kingdom of darkness

The [born-again]children of God and the sons of satan [the anti-God]

We are all born into the kingdom of darkness and have served the anti-truth king. The anti-truth king is anti-God, anti-Christ, and anti-anointed ones. His great passion is to 'steal, kill, and destroy' truth, light, Christ, and all His followers. We have all fought in that war for one side or the other; none of us are exempt. That war is fully engaged and we are all a part of the conflict.

The most glorious miracle of all is that occasion when the God of love and truth reaches down and lifts one of us up, and offers us an opportunity to live and die for the Living God rather than the anti-god. We have a moment to decide, and then the war goes on and we continue to serve and follow God or the anti-god. What an incredible miracle that moment is!!! The God of light and love, rescues one who often doesn't even know that he needs rescuing until that spectacular moment when the Almighty offers him a choice to live forever for and in a different King and kingdom. Almost incredible!!!

Still the war goes on..... and we are all engaged.

In serving the anti-god and we lived for ourselves in rebellion and selfishness attempting to rule our own lives and destiny. Usually we are unaware that we are simply the pawns of death and darkness – but we like to think that all is well as we live out our destructive lives. Then, for

some the King of Glory, draws us to Himself, and with our agreement we begin to serve another King in love, truth, and freedom. This is NOT are religious experience; this has NOTHING to do with religion of any sort.

THIS IS TOTALLY RELATIONAL – FROM START TO FINISH!

HE BEGINS IT! [relational]

HE INVITES US TO BE BORN INTO HIS FAMILY. [relational]

WE BEGIN TO RELATE TO A NEW FATHER AS A NEWBORN BABES. [relational]

WE HEAR OUR SHEPHERD'S [Jn.10:27]VOICE AND FOLLOW HIM. [relational]

THE SONS OF GOD ARE LED [Rom.8:14]BY THE SPIRIT OF GOD. [relational]

IT IS ALL ABOUT RELATIONSHIP!

But, while it is the beginning of relationship with God and the other sons of God, there is a loss of relationship with the sons of satan. Just as they hated HIM without a cause, they hate all sons of God. Of course, sometimes they may have a cause or sometimes ... they just think that they have cause as they did with Jesus. So, Jesus warned us [John 15:18 - 19 (NLT)] *18 "If the world hates you, remember that it hated me first. 19 The world would love you as one of its own if you belonged to it, but you are no longer part of the world. I chose you to come out of the world, so it hates you.*

The conflict is real and it is primarily a malignant attack against the God of love and truth; it is the same attack which is released against the children of God. The existence of love and truth elicits hate and murderous responses. We should not be surprised if when we begin to serve the God of love and truth we are hated by the world of darkness. And unfortunately, part of the world of darkness historically has included and continues to include religious Christians as well as other religious [and non-religious] belief systems.

This reality is most violent when we attempt to reveal that our relationship with the living Jesus is made possible through the work of the cross and the gracious embrace of the living loving God. Paul noted that, [1 Corinthians 1:18] *"the word of the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God."* The same message that is considered *"foolishness"* and *"rank stupidity"* by one group is the *"the power of God"* to the other! Furthermore, [1 Corinthians 1:23-24] when we *"preach Christ crucified, to Jews [it is] a stumbling block and to Gentiles foolishness, but to those who are called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ [is] the power of God and the wisdom of God.*

The same words releasing the same message produces different results in the lives of those in the deferent kingdoms.

And the war goes on..... but it is not just a war of words: it is truth [God Himself] versus anti-God and anti-Truth. Those who are embraced by God become truth as He is truth. They become love as He is love. BECAUSE they are truth and love in some small dimension they are HATED even as He is hated. He is hated because of who He is; we also are hated because of who we are..... It is not a rational hatred of truth and love; it is a spiritual hatred of Him Who is Truth and Love – wherever He is found and wherever His children are found.

[2 Corinthians 2:14 - 16 (NLT)] *14 But thank God! He has made us his captives and continues to lead us along in Christ's triumphal procession. Now he uses us to spread the knowledge of Christ*

everywhere, like a sweet perfume. ¹⁵Our lives are a Christ-like fragrance rising up to God. But this fragrance is perceived differently by those who are being saved and by those who are perishing. ¹⁶To those who are perishing, we are a dreadful smell of death and doom. But to those who are being saved, we are a life-giving perfume. And who is adequate for such a task as this?

The same person, the same odor, even today produces very different responses. They are life or death responses. The one Who came to bring life released LIFE to those who received Him, but death to those who rejected Him. [John 1:11-13] ***He came to His own, and those who were His own did not receive Him. (12) But as many as received Him, to them He gave the right to become children of God, even to those who believe in His name, (13) who were born, not of blood nor of the will of the flesh nor of the will of man, but of God.*** [Born of God.]

Two thousand years later, it remains the same. The war goes on; those kingdom conflicts still render life and death.

Obviously, the world is not any closer to accepting the gift of love and truth which Jesus brought. The same murderous response screams today as it did then, but to as many as received Him..... **MIRACLE OF MIRACLES!!!!!! THESE CAN BE BORN BY THE WILL OF GOD.....** a new beginning – a new life – a new eternity.....

And the war goes on.....

but.....there is VICTORY - ETERNAL VICTORY..... And... HE HAS WON IT!!!