



Know Your Fault Lines

Resilient Unity

- Let's not pretend we do not have faults along which we can divide
- Satan knows exactly where they are – so must we
- Unity is not Uniformity
 - We must deal with differences and make them strengths – show forth the power of Grace
- Resilient Unity addresses issues
- Fragile Unity hopes they never come up and avoids them

They Speak a Different Language

- Acts 6:1-4 – Greek speaking Jews
 - They lived among the Gentiles
 - Less “pure” and more worldly
 - There was a problem
 - The problem was articulated rather than hidden
 - The problem was resolved
 - Unity was preserved
- Have you ever fallen into this?
- Know your fault lines!

Progressives and Traditionalists

- Am I really going to touch that third rail?
 - We must or Satan will throw us on it
- Acts 10 – one of the most important moments in the Church – what happened?
- Acts 11:1-3 – Pope Peter is too liberal
 - Acts 11:17-18: they don't fully recognize the fault line
 - Acts 15:1-2 – beware disparaging near unanimous magisterial decisions
- Rev 2:14-16 – the Nicolaitans
- Ever felt judgmental from either side?
- Know your fault lines!

Different Perspectives and Priorities

- Paul, Barnabas, and John Mark
 - Acts 13:13, 15:36-40
 - Perhaps Paul was more task oriented and Barnabas, son of encouragement, more people oriented
 - Maybe just a difference of opinion
 - They resolved it by accepting their differences
 - The resolution: II Tim 4:9-11
- Ever disagree with how things are being done?
- Know your fault lines!

End Times?

- Apocalyptic Speculation: II Thess 2:1-2
 - Maybe it's the end; maybe it's not
 - Stick around and find out
 - Focus on the love in front of us
 - Our job remains the same
 - Don't divide over what we don't know
 - Know your fault lines!

More Fault Lines

- Racism: Gal 2:11-14
 - How could a holy apostle fall into this?
 - It was baked into his society
 - It is so thoroughly pervasive in our society, we may not even realize – on all sides – not just White, not just American
 - Know your fault lines!
- Choosing Sides: I Cor 1:10-13
 - Friendship and kinship with similar thinkers is natural
 - Humble, frank discussion of disagreements is important
 - But there should be no sides – we have no time for politics
 - Let's catch ourselves – Know our fault lines!

More Fault Lines

- Racism: Gal 2:11-14
 - How could a holy apostle fall into this?
 - It was baked into his society
 - It is so thoroughly pervasive in our society, we may not even realize – on all sides
 - Know your fault lines!
- Choosing Sides: I Cor 1:10-13
 - Friendship and kinship with similar thinkers is natural
 - But there should be no sides – we have no time for politics
 - Let's catch ourselves – Know our fault lines!

Foreign Experience

- “I don’t understand how” - that’s right, you don’t
 - Even serious issues: infidelity, depression, suicide
 - We may have no idea how valiant someone’s struggle is
 - Have you ever caught yourself saying, “I don’t understand how . . . ?”
 - Know your fault lines

Politics

- Another third rail!
 - It may be a difference of opinion
 - Big / small government; low / high taxes
 - Don’t be a judge of the law
 - It may be a serious moral issue
 - Be very careful of judging another’s servant
 - We do not know God’s timeline for teaching them each lesson
 - We do not know what trauma has shaped their vote
 - Be VERY careful before you usurp God’s right to judge who is His son or daughter
 - Do not let Satan exalt you onto God’s throne – Know your fault lines

Judging the Natural as Spiritual

- Confusing personality types and psychology for conversion and spirituality
 - Physically contemplative, genetically kind, naturally difficult (Saint Jerome), naturally traditional or liberal
 - Judging on nature rather than true spirituality
 - Are we judging others on what is natural to us?
 - Know your fault lines!

We Will Be Tested

- This is not an if
- It is when and how
- We have differences
- Unity is not uniformity
- Unity is rooted in mercy, love, humility, and trust in God's work in each of our lives according to His plan
- We can be on guard against Satan if:

We know our fault lines