

**Prayer List of the Sick and Afflicted:**

Liz Sturgill continues to receive dialysis treatments.  
Jesse Riddle has been having trouble breathing and is battling with weakness.  
Judy Coley is suffering from shingles.  
Delores Hendrickson has a fractured pelvis and is in The Spring rehab center.  
Michaela Mathews is undergoing testing for fainting spells.  
Aleta Sturgill, friend of Ray and Liz Sturgill is suffering from kidney problems.  
Shirley Cook's brother is recovering at Shirley's home. Shirley's sister-in-law, Judy Pflaum, suffered some heart issues and is in the hospital in Evansville.  
Virginia McKinney is still experiencing some balance and hip problems in addition to problems with her back and legs. She also has a broken wrist.  
Karen Sproles is doing better but continues to receive steroid injections in her knee.  
Karen's husband, Chet, is still recovering from a broken leg.  
Please keep Karen's daughter, Jean English, in prayer as well.  
John Richardson is still suffering from a sore on his leg.  
Shannon Jones, daughter of Linda and Randall, is still undergoing chemotherapy.

**Pray For Our Shut-ins:**

Gloria Hale, Karen Sproles, Iris Hash, Virginia McKinney, John & Terry Richardson

**Pray For The Mission Works We Are Supporting:**

John Grubb (Mission work in Asia), Daniel Goshorn and family (Mission work in Peru). See latest mission reports on the bulletin board in back of the auditorium.

**Deepest Sympathy:**

Mike Parnell's uncle, Bill, passed away recently. Funeral services were held last week near Knoxville, TN. Please keep Mike and Doris in prayer.

**Monthly Pitch-in Dinner:**

Our next pitch-in dinner will be held Sunday, August 6th immediately after the morning service. Following the meal, we will reconvene at 1:00 PM for a singing then dismiss for the day.

**Men's Business Meeting:**

The next men's monthly business meeting will be Wednesday, August 2nd at 5:00.

**Fish Fry:**

Our annual fish fry will be held on Saturday, September 23<sup>rd</sup> at the Martinsville City Park. More information will follow.

**Gospel Meeting:**

Our fall gospel meeting with brother Bill Boyd of the Rockliff Church of Christ in McMinnville, TN will be held November 10-12.

**Radio Program:**

Please remember to tune in every Sunday morning at 8:00 AM to WCBK 102.3 FM to hear our radio program which is entitled: "Preparing For Eternity".

**God's Plan For Our Salvation**

Hearing the word of God (Romans 10:17; Acts 16:32).  
Believing what is taught (Mark 16:16; Hebrews 11:6).  
Repentance (Acts 2:38; Luke 13:3; Acts 17:30).  
Confession (Romans 10:9, 10; Acts 8:37).  
Baptism (Acts 2:38; Mark 16:16; I Peter 3:21; Romans 6:3, 4).  
Faithful Christian Living, after the above five steps (I Peter 2:11, 12; Rev. 2:10).

July 30, 2023

***MORGAN STREET CHURCH OF CHRIST***

**540 E. Morgan Street  
Martinsville, IN 46151  
(765) 342-6027**



**Schedule of Services:**

**Sunday**

Bible Study – 9:30 AM  
Worship – 10:30 AM  
Evening Service - 6:00

**Wednesday**

Bible Study – 6:00 PM

**Thursday**

Ladies' Bible Study – 11:00 AM (March through October)

**Radio Program:**

"Preparing For Eternity"  
Sunday Mornings 8:00 AM, WCBK 102.3 FM

**Website:**

[www.morganstreetchurchofchrist.org](http://www.morganstreetchurchofchrist.org)

Gospel Preacher – Bob Hawkins

# THE CAUSE OF DIVISION

When brethren set aside the Bible and emotions rule, the chances of stopping the impending division quickly disappears!

Conflicts of various sorts have been the lot of man since sin entered the world (Job 14:1; Rom. 5:12). As one turns to the pages of Holy Writ, they find conflicts: Division (1 Cor. 1:11), Immorality (1 Cor. 5:10-13), False doctrine (1 Cor. 15:12-20), Two sisters at odds (Phil. 4:2), Works of the flesh (Gal. 5:19-21), and the “church boss” (3 John 9-11). In addition to this, the early church had problems of complaining, general apathy, jealousy, gossip, bitterness, prejudice, etc. These identical sins affect the 21st century church as they did those in the first century church!

We should always keep in mind that the church has both a human and a divine side. The divine side is absolutely perfect, whereas the human side is composed of those who are not perfect. In his book, *The Triumphant Marriage*, Dr. Neil Clark Warren gave the following advice to those entering marriage. “The strongest message married people need to hear is that they should expect a significant number of hassles, demands for change, power struggles, and hard-to-deal-with conflicts.” When you read Dr. Warren’s advice, one cannot help but think of the church and conflict! Friends, all congregations have their problems, which if not contained, could easily set off a “spark” which quickly becomes a raging inferno!

There are basically six areas when a congregation will come close to, if not outright, dividing: 1) Doctrinal matters, 2) Firing a well loved preacher, 3) Contemplating moving and building a new facility, 4) Practicing church discipline,

5) When one or more “Diotrephes” rule a congregation, 6) When elders/deacons or additional elders/deacons are appointed. All of these areas are like “dry kindlin” which can easily produce a raging fire within the congregation. All that is needed is a “spark” from a leader and the fire will soon be fanned from all directions and you have a firestorm which completely consumes the precious body of Christ at that location!

The basic answer as to why congregations divide, is sin! Two specific sins that produce wars within the body of Christ are the “pride of life” (1 John 2:16) and lust for power —“from whence come wars and fighting among you? Come they not hence, even of your lusts that war in your members” (James 4:1)? In commenting on this verse, the late Guy N. Woods wrote, “The lust for power, the desire for acclaim, and the overpowering pride of opinion have propelled men into the most vicious and hurtful state of war, thus disgracing the cause of Christ, discouraging the good, and providing infidelity with one of its most effective arguments.” (Commentary on James, p.200).

When brethren set aside the Bible and emotions rule, the chances of stopping the impending division quickly disappears!

When the flesh rules, peacemakers are not sought out and the far reaching consequences of dividing the body of Christ are not considered. When conflicts occur (and they will) brethren need to conduct themselves so that Christ will be exalted and the church edified!

-- Ivie Powell