

What CAN Destroy A Local Church?

Fellowship can be broken. Revelation 2:5
 Unity can be disrupted. 1 Corinthians 11:18
 Usefulness can cease. Revelation 3:16

Allowing Divisions Over People

- Carnality that disrupts harmony and dishonors Christ.
 1 Corinthians 1:10-13; 3:1-3
- Various forms:
 - Over preachers (1 Corinthians 3:4-7)
 - Over and among elders (1 Timothy 5:19)
 - Over family (1 Timothy 5:21)
 - A "Diotrephes" (3 John 9-10)
 - "Personality conflicts" (NOTE: John 13:34-35)

False Doctrines (Colossians 2:8)

- Removes us from God's grace.
 Galatians 1:6-9 (2:5)
- Corrupts. 2 Corinthians 11:2-4
 (2 Timothy 2:16-18)
- Unless we guard against error we will succumb to it.

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Binding Personal Consciences

- Binding morally indifferent issues splinters and fractures churches. Romans 14:13; 15:7
- Use your liberty without condemning, causing stumbling, or violating your conscience
 - Follow peace and edify each other (Romans 14:1-6, 10, 13-14, 19, 21-23)
 - Avoid foolish disputes. 2 Timothy 2:23

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An Unfaithful Eldership

- By not guarding themselves or not feeding the church, it is exposed to destruction.
"Take heed unto yourselves, and to all the flock ..." Acts 20:28-30; cf. Hebrews 13:17; 1 Thessalonians 5:12ff
- Pure motives must be kept. 1 Peter 5:2-3
- Follow no man into sin!

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Hypocrisy

- Hinders conversions, dishonors God, and makes our message vain. Romans 2:17-25; James 3:16
- Churches have influence.
 1 Thessalonians 1:7-10
- Our name and our influence must be true.
 Revelation 3:1

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The Infiltration Of The World

- Sin, left to itself, permeates and defiles. 1 Corinthians 5:1-2, 6-8; Ephesians 4-5; 2 Thessalonians 3:6ff
- Issue of the heart! Proverbs 4:23; 1 John 2:15-16 (cf. Matthew 6:24)
- Come out, cleanse ourselves, and perfect holiness. 2 Corinthians 6:17-7:1

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Weariness With Whole Counsel Of God

- We must have God's word. Acts 20:20, 27
- Weariness means apathy, neglect, distraction, impatience with the truth.
 - Warnings: cf. Galatians 6:9; 2 Thessalonians 3:13; Hebrews 12:3; Revelation 2:3
- Leads to accommodating selfish interests instead of God's will. 2 Timothy 4:3-4

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Love For Christ Becomes Secondary

- Christ must be first. Matthew 10:37-39
- *"I have this against thee ... fallen."* Revelation 2:4-5
- Churches are tempted to put other things ahead of Christ:
 - Reputation
 - The physical complex
 - Drawing people at the expense of truth
 - Ease and comfort
- Lack of reverence for Christ. Colossians 3:17

Our Purpose Is To Survive And Thrive

- With Christ's approval ...
 - Sound in doctrine.
 - Pure in living.
 - Diligent in service.

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