

Bible Lessons Learned in the Episcopal Church

Matthew 7:21-23

- ⊕ Religious division is addressed in a very serious manner by the New Testament (I Cor. 1:10; I Tim. 4:1-2; II Tim. 3:1-5).
- ⊕ Unity is prized by Jesus (Jn. 17:21-23).
- ⊕ The unity Jesus covets is the unity based on truth (Jn. 17:17).
- ⊕ The Christ is clear about His insistence on keeping God's word (Matt. 5:17-20).
- ⊕ Unity must be out of a context of love (Mk. 12:28-34), but it must be a unity that never forsakes the truth (Jn. 15:10).
- ⊕ In the Episcopal Church I first faced issues of unity; I share with you some lessons I learned in the experience.

Aunt Dot's Comments (Matt. 7:21-23)

- ⊕ The Hippie made sense (Jn. 13:34-35).
- ⊕ "The dangling conversation and the superficial sigh" (Mk. 7:6-9).
- ⊕ Questions unanswered (Jn. 14:2b).
- ⊕ The Tract (Matt. 7:7-11).
- ⊕ Then what shall I do with Jesus who is called Christ (Matt. 27:22)?

Applications

- ⊕ Get real (Jn. 8:31-32)!
 - ⊕ Fight the good fight (II Tim. 4:1-8).
 - ⊕ Accept no substitutes (I Jn. 4:1).
 - ⊕ The real deal is the only deal (Jn. 4:26).
 - ⊕ By God ... (Eph. 4:20-21)!
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- ⊕ Unity is worth a fight.
 - ⊕ Speaking the truth in love is always the only way (Eph. 4:15).
 - ⊕ We cannot be true sons and daughters of the Father if we do not share the Father's values (Jer. 9:23-24).

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