

A HOUSE DIVIDED

Some years ago, we had a friend who was constantly bad mouthing his boss at the store where he was employed. We tried to discourage this, but he didn't stop and he eventually was fired.

I'm mindful of another division that took place some years back. The Kohler Company near Sheboygan has a history of strikes, 5 in all. There was one in 1954 that went on for 3 years. Eventually the company hired non-union people to work and that is when the fireworks started, you see they were relatives. This became such a bitter situation, that family relationships were split and were never the same, for years, sometimes never. There were congregations in the area that were split right down the middle, it interrupted the churches mission. It was a bitter situation that went on for years. Twenty-five years later it was still in the minds of the people. That separation of families and churches wasn't mentioned in the information that I read, it was shared with me by Pastors and volunteers.

Today we see it all around us, the complaining about every kind of situation that arises. We see our leaders saying some pretty nasty things about each other. All you have to do is watch the news.

I share the above information with you as an example of the reason and purpose for these monthly greetings. The goal has always been the same for the past 11 years, to build a bridge between you and your church, one that is safe to cross, with the doors open and the lights on (sounds like a Motel 6 ad). Any division between you and your Lord Jesus becomes one that is not healthy, spiritually. This is why the passage in Luke jumped right out at me. It's the "I don't care attitude", gives more reason to write this month's greeting. From Luke 1:23 *"Whoever is not with me is against me, and whoever does not gather with me scatters."*

I recently had a repair done on my right knee. The doctor has at least 3-5 staff people that work with him with the surgery and follow-up. They did a fantastic job and what impressed me the most was the team work in this office, like a well-oiled swiss watch. We observe this also at our church. Each person knows what to do, how to do it and no complaining about their opportunity to serve Christ and their fellow Christians. We do have a family here that cares deeply about each other. We are proud to be a part of this congregation. As an example, about 4 months ago, three young adults and their leader delivered 2 deliciously prepared meals to us and shared some of their time with us. It was so exciting to have these young adults in our home to share their love for the ministry. There are many examples of love and caring. We would ask you, to join in the experience that we have received. If you are thinking about joining in again, don't be reluctant. Listen, if the folks here can love and accept me, you are a shoe in. So, pull up a chair to your place of worship and join us at our table. ²⁴And let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds, ²⁵not giving up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but encouraging one another—and all the more as you see the Day approaching. Hebrews 10: 24,25



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