

Chairman's Remarks

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“Now I beseech you, brethren, by the Name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that ye all speak the same thing, and that there be no divisions among you, but that ye be perfectly joined together in the same mind and in the same judgement” (I Corinthians 1:10).

A decision was made at one of the recent BRF Council meetings that the *British Reformed Journal* should regularly carry some devotional remarks from the Chairman. To start these series of remarks I intend over the next few issues to consider our calling to be united under the theme “Striving Together.” The text for this theme is I Corinthians 1:10 (above). Here we are called of God to “speak the same thing,” “that we not be divided” and that “we be perfectly joined together in mind and in judgement.” This is an immense challenge not only for the membership of the *British Reformed Fellowship* but for every born again child of God throughout the whole world.

Of God's handiwork in preparing the earth for man we read repeatedly that He saw that “it was good.” Today God sees that fair creation marred by sin. Think for a moment of recent events in the world. Terrorism and mass murder on an unprecedented scale, displays of hatred at home and abroad, so called sectarian strife and embitterment. All this in the name of “religion.” Some despair and see no hope. Even among Christians we see and hear of contentions, arguments and disunity. We might wonder why God allows this to continue. But yet, even today, a good and pleasant sight meets God's eyes. We find this sight in Psalm 133:1. “Behold,” God says, “how good and how pleasant it is for brethren to dwell together in unity.” God's heart is glad when He beholds His people dwelling together with one accord.

To us also, whom He has saved by His sovereign grace, it is a pleasant sight. He who is born of God loves God, but not only that, he also loves his brothers and sisters in the Church. His heart is grieved at any lack of harmony among them; and his heart is stirred the more on reading God's repeated commands that we are to be "of one mind in the Lord."

Similar exhortations to those in our text can be found in Philippians 2:2, in I Peter 3:8 and in Romans 12:16. Surely this must be the reason for the BRF Aims and Objectives; this must be the reason for our very existence. If this is not the reason then we must ask what is it? Is it to bring argument and contention, division and conflict, disharmony and hurt? The answer to this question must be a resounding, No! But, how are we to strive towards the objectives of unity and agreement? Happily, God has shown us how that unity may be obtained. Oneness of mind may be reached by the submission of Christians to the guidance of the Word of God. We believe, as the *Belgic Confession of Faith* puts it, "that those Holy Scriptures fully contain the will of God, and that whatsoever man ought to believe unto salvation, is sufficiently taught therein" (Article VII). This "Word," as I Timothy 3:15 tells us, provides Christians with clear guidance on not only how they are to behave towards and worship God, but also how they are to behave towards one another.

Scripture should therefore be searched, not only regarding one's personal and family life, but also for guidance on how we are to relate to and interact with other Christians.

In the next issues (DV) we will consider the pattern God has provided, in His Word, for proper Christian interaction, the role of rulers and servants and then our responsibilities toward each other.