

THE WHITEFIELD NEWSLETTER  
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**Identifying Diseases in the Body of Christ**

As we are well on our way into the summer months I thought that it might be profitable to examine those spiritual maladies that afflict the Body of Believers. It is my desire that in analyzing these disorders we will be better able to deal with them when their symptoms begin to surface. It goes without saying that the following afflictions would of course never be found in the lives of the readers of this NEWSLETTER. My only concern in this NEWSLETTER is to equip the reader to identify and handle these diseases as they might occur in someone else's life.

**1. Unititus Colitus**

This is an internal disorder which seems to be occurring at a rate that can only be described as an epidemic. Here we find the patient overwhelmed with the desire to keep everybody together and happy no matter what the cost. There are of course many strains of this virus. One strain can be identified as **Unititus Colitus Husbandus**. Here the husband believes that his responsibility is keep his wife "HAPPY." He may firmly believe that his family ought to attend a certain church because it is the most biblically faithful church in his area. But, since his wife disapproves and threatens to become UNHAPPY, he changes his mind thinking that his job as a husband is to keep conflict out of the marriage at ALL cost. Little does he know that CONFLICT is not in and of itself a bad thing. What does matter is that he be found FAITHFUL. The husband is to "disciple" his wife, he is to "lead" her.

*"Do not suppose that I have come to bring peace to the earth. I did not come to bring peace but a sword. For I have come to turn a man against father, a daughter against her mother, a daughter-in-law against her mother-in-law -- a man's enemies will be the members of his own household. Anyone who loves his father or mother more than me; (I believe that the relationship between the husband and wife is also to be included in this list.) anyone who loves his son or daughter more than me is not worthy of me."*

Matthew 10:34-37 (NIV)

*"Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her to make her holy, cleansing her by the washing with water through the word, and to present her to himself as a radiant church, without stain or wrinkle or any other blemish, but holy and blameless."*

Ephesians 5:25-27 (NIV)

**2. Paralysis Confrontitus**

This is a severe disorder that results in tremendous complications for the local Family of Believers. The FEAR of CONFRONTING develops into a paralysis which leads to a failure to resolve problems in a biblical manner. Chaos in the Body of Christ is the inevitable result of this disease.

*"Therefore each of you must put off falsehood and speak truthfully to his neighbor, for we are all members of one body."*

Ephesians 4:25 (NIV)

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