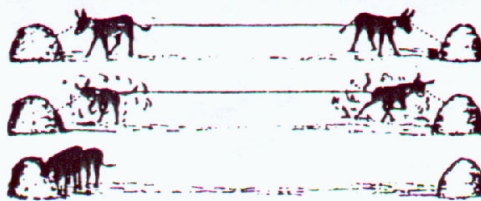


BATTLING BELIEVERS

Many believers in battling with one another have been duped by their **REAL ENEMY** (Eph. 6:12) **THE DEVIL**, The "accuser or our brethren" (Rev. 12:10) and as a result a tug of war or kickin is carried on which sometimes results in a divided church.



"Some are in a Tug of War and Some are Kickin"

"For though we walk in the flesh, we do not war after the flesh: for the weapon of our warfare are not carnal (fleshly) but mighty through God to the pulling down of strong holds." II Cor. 10:3-4

Cartoon Source Unknown

A shepherd in Colorado said that in the presence of coyotes, wild horses put their heads together and proceed to kick their enemy. When wild donkeys are attacked, they face the enemy and kick each other.

Give up Scriptural convictions? NO! Give in to God? YES! God said to two women who were dividing the church at Philippi "that they be of the **SAME MIND IN THE LORD**" Philippians 4:2

- SOME CHURCH PROBLEMS ENCOUNTERED -

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| EMBEZZLEMENT | - A church leader caught stealing funds: the Board was ready to forgive without repayment. |
| GOSSIP | - Satan's three-pronged dart dividing churches. Gossip is now being called "sharing time". |
| DISAGREEMENT | - As to how a church platform should be constructed. |
| COMMUNION | - As to whether crackers or bread be served. |
| BOARD MEMBERS FIGHTING | - A Board Member angry because other Board Members walking over his just seeded grass and he sat in on board meetings with an angry spirit which helped lead to a church split. |
| SOCIAL DRINKING | - Church divided over use of intoxicating beverages. |
| HOMOSEXUALITY | - Church divided over a youth leader thought to be a homosexual, others thought otherwise. |
| BAPTISM | - Church split over belief in immersion against other views. The only time that BRM recommended a church split and they did with BRM's assistance for each side. |
| CHAIN-OF-COMMAND | - A church with too many hands on the steering wheel and by-passing Scriptural chain-of-command as outlined in the Scriptures leaving the pastor as a spectator. |
| OWNERSHIP OF PARSONAGE | - A pastor resigning and then refusing to leave the parsonage feeling it was his for life. |
| HOME WORSHIP | - A church tolerating a few of their members to sell Bible study tapes with an encouragement to stay home instead of attending God's House for worship. A case of "tape worm". |
| BOARD MEMBERS FIGHTING | - A church split over Board Members arguing over the purchase of a water softener. Loved ones of each Board member took sides and it ended up in a divided church. |
| PETITIONS | - Church members circulating a petition to oust the pastor without any constitutional authority to do so. |
| PASTOR ABANDONS PROBLEM | - Begging BRM to help break a deadlock in his church and taking a leave of absence for a few days leaving BRM with the problem. |
| CHURCH BOARD and PASTOR SUIING | - Disagreement over the purchasing of a home for the pastor to build up equity. Financing the project and it's location proved a testing time for the church board.
- A construction worker and members of a church which he intended to sue because of a minor accident which required outpatient care. He wanted a nice nest egg. |
| RETIREMENT | - A church which reneged on it's promise of retirement income after almost three decades of faithful service by the pastor and his wife. |
| DOCTRINE | - A pastor who changed his doctrinal views and began preaching his new ideas from the pulpit without forewarning his Board resulted in problems among the congregation. |
| VOTE ON PASTOR | - A church with an ungodly clause in their set-up allowing an annual vote on the pastor. |

Mrs. Svoboda has often asked her husband to write a book with more information on above happenings. His reply has been "Who would believe it?" The statistics are mind boggling. It is estimated that there are some 15,000 church splits annually in America with a 20% pastor burn-out.

If you are a prayer warrior and contributor, then you are on our Team. YOU are, in effect, traveling with us to churches such as listed above. If you are NOT on our Team - why not JOIN? WE NEED YOU!

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