

2-Right Hand of Fellowship

1/8/23

INTRO:

I. → Galatians 2:6-10

6 As for those who were held in high esteem—whatever they were makes no difference to me; God does not show favoritism—they added nothing to my message. 7 On the contrary, they recognized that I had been entrusted with the task of preaching the gospel to the uncircumcised, just as Peter had been to the circumcised.

*→ 8 For God, who was at work in Peter as an apostle to the circumcised, was also at work in me as an apostle to the Gentiles. 9 James, Cephas and John, those esteemed as pillars, gave me and Barnabas the **right hand of fellowship** when they recognized the grace given to me.*

→ They agreed that we should go to the Gentiles, and they to the circumcised. 10 All they asked was that we should continue to remember the poor, the very thing I had been eager to do all along.

II. THE JERUSALEM COUNCIL

III. Marco Antonio de Dominis, Archbishop of Spalato (1624)

A. In necessariis unitas, in dubiis libertas, in omnibus caritas.

B. "Let us all embrace one another, unity in necessary things, liberty in doubtful things, charity in all things."

BODY:

I. In Essentials Unity

*7 They recognized that I had been entrusted with the task of **preaching the gospel** to the uncircumcised, just as Peter had been to the circumcised.*

A. Most important is that people hear the good news.

1) **Philippians 1:18**

But what does it matter? The important thing is that in every way, whether from false motives or true, Christ is preached. And because of this I rejoice.

2) INTERNATIONAL AND INTERDENOMINATIONAL
EVANGELISM

B. Once we agree on the main thing everything else takes a back seat.

1) **1 Corinthians 3:6-7**

I planted the seed, Apollos watered it, but God has been making it grow. So neither the one who plants nor the one who waters is anything, but only God, who makes things grow.

2) PASTOR TAYLOR LEADING DOUG TO THE LORD

II. In Non-Essentials Liberty

9 Gave me and Barnabas the right hand of fellowship when they recognized the grace given to me.

A. We need to leave room for disputable matters.

1) **Romans 14:1**

Accept the one whose faith is weak, without quarreling over disputable matters.

2) DENOMINATIONS SPLITTING OVER WORDS

B. It is not our job to judge a servant of the Lord.

1) **Romans 14:4**

Who are you to judge someone else's servant? To their own master, servants stand or fall. And they will stand, for the Lord is able to make them stand.

2) PEOPLE LEAVING CHURCH FOR BEING REJECTED

III. In All Things Charity

All they asked was that we should continue to remember the poor, the very thing I had been eager to do all along.

- A. We don't have to give up uniqueness to walk in unity.
- 1) **1 Peter 4:10**
Each of you should use whatever gift you have received to serve others, as faithful stewards of God's grace in its various forms.
 - 2) THE COUNCIL OF ELROND
- B. The one thing we must never leave out is love.
- 1) **Colossians 3:14**
And over all these virtues put on love, which binds them all together in perfect unity.
 - 2) HEAVEN GETTING A NEW DOORKEEPER