

# Hindrances to New Testament Christianity

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## Introduction

1. John 17:20-21
2. Jesus' prays for unity, the desire is for unity, but is it unity at all cost?
3. Paul speaks of keeping the unity and the bond of peace Ephesians 4:3
4. Why then is there division in the religious world yea even in the church?
5. You might think have some other hindrances to New Testament Christianity let us study these few.
6. If these hindrances are hindering the church here then let us make changes so that the church can have its free course.

## II Discussion

1. An improper spirit
  - a. They were warned of their evil ways Zech 1:4; 2 Kings 17:13
  - b. Their attitude was we will turn from our evil ways Jeremiah 6:16
  - c. When truth is taught what is our attitude toward it 2 Timothy 4:1-4
2. Pride
  - a. This action God hates Proverbs 8:13;
  - b. Pride is before destruction Proverbs 16:18
  - c. It is condemned 1 John 2:16
  - d. Some want the preeminence 3 John 9-11 Adam Clarke said, "this man behaved himself haughtily in it." He was a church officer.
3. Arrogant
  - a. This is the spirit that comes with improper knowledge 1 Corinthians 8:1-2
  - b. Paul describes this attitude Colossians 2:18ff
  - c. This spirit can be displayed by how we treat the world or an erring member Galatians 6:1-3
  - d. Jesus did not tell us to not get the beam out of our brother's eye, he told us first to get the mote out of our own eye then we can see how to get the beam out of our brother's eye. Matthew 7:1-5
4. Sectarian
  - a. The Lord hates this kind of spirit Proverbs 6:16-19
  - b. This is the kind of spirit that likes to follow a person 1 Corinthians 1:10-13; 3:3-9
  - c. It is the kind of spirit that likes to start another church when there is no need to.
  - d. This the kind of spirit not what Jesus prayed for John 17:20-21
  - e. This is not the kind of spirit we are to be working for Ephesians 4:3
5. Laziness
  - a. The one talented man was "wicked and slothful" Matthew 25:26
  - b. If a man does not work, he should not eat 2 Thessalonians 3:10-13
  - c. Hebrews exhorts us not to be slothful but workers Hebrews 6:10-12
  - d. There is the work of an evangelist 2 Timothy 4:5;
  - e. There is work for all 1 Corinthians 15:58; Philippians 2:12
6. Pseudo-knowledge
  - a. To think one is a scholar does not make him so Galatians 6:3
  - b. James describes this kind of wisdom and calls it earthly, sensual and devilish James 3:14-16
  - c. Paul says that he knows nothing as he ought to know 1 Corinthians 8:2
  - d. We can know if a person has this kind of knowledge 1 John 2:43-4

## III Conclusion

1. This can be summed up with just one word that hinders the New Testament church and that is SIN.
2. Will you let your sin hinder the HBR church from doing what God wants the church to do?
3. Let us have the correct spirit and change so that we can grow into what God wants
4. Let us do what is necessary to go to heaven
5. Will you come now!

Sources: Christianity Then and now John Waddey editor Vol. 7 No. 6 February 2008; Church growth God's Way Missouri-Kansas lectures 1985; MSOP lecture 2000 [the first six lecture and then there is a single lecture dealing with this topic]; Concordance Vine's ISBE