

- A. In matters or questions of "change", follow peace and holiness.

We become so accustomed to particular forms and ways of doing things that any alteration is upsetting. Yet, in our hearts we know that all things change save those that are the timeless truths of God and eternity. Within a group of believers it is inevitable that someone will wish something changed for one reason or another and very often great difficulties arise. In following the things that make for peace and holiness in these situations, it is necessary that we have the corrective policies of Matthew 18 and Ephesians 4 in place, that we do not utter ultimatums, and that we pursue matters in prayer and yieldedness to God and His Word and to one another. I am not saying it is easy. I am saying it is the proper approach. There are some other pragmatic things to be worked out and they can be accomplished if this foundational attitude is in place.

- B. In matters of personal disagreement, follow peace and holiness. (Neb. 12:15 et al) We are not talking about matters of sin, rebellion, etc., but the personal disagreements that arise as some are more in favor of one thing while others lend *their weight to something else. Remember not to make judgments of a censorious sort (Romans 14) and try to apply the principles of the strong caring for the weak (Romans 15) Note Hebrews 12:12-13 and see what one may do to carry out this instruction. Above all else, don't allow a personal disagreement to alienate a brother. If the problem is truly doctrinal or moral, the assembly discipline will decide the matter and this will also work for health in a better way.*

- C. In matters of inefficient leadership, follow peace and holiness. A proper attitude towards the elders need to be cultivated at all times. They are for our good (Hebrews 13) and we are to show them a proper respect. If the leadership becomes or is ineffective, our proper recourse is prayer and then if there is some moral defecting, Paul tells Timothy how to handle such matters. But to pray, support, encourage, these are all things that make for peace and for holiness in that we live to God in a principal way.

- III. Conclusion: This is the way we are told to live and it produces maximum blessing and health in the fellowship. Contrary paths will not help and