

Letter to the Church Regarding Division

March 02, 2006

Letter to the Chicago Church of Christ:

A phone call from Chris Broom of Syracuse, New York and an announcement on the web made us aware that Kip McKean and the Portland International Church of Christ in conjunction with the Central New York Church of Christ in Syracuse is preparing to plant a church in Chicago. Some of our members have been encouraged to leave our fellowship to join in this effort. While we gladly welcome any disciple of Jesus who is committed to reaching the Chicago area for Christ, we feel strongly that this action is divisive. Divisiveness destroys unity, hurts the faith of individual Christians and harms God's kingdom. The divisive tactics being used by this group are more evidence of the continued sin that has been addressed in the past. We denounce the division caused by the actions of this group just as Paul did in Romans 16:17-19 and Titus 3:9-11.

Unity is vitally important to God. Jesus prayed for complete unity (John 17:20-21) as He was preparing to go to the cross. His desire is that the world will see we are His disciples by our love for one another (John 13:34-35) and by our deeds (1 Peter 3:9-11).

Sadly, after years of private corrections and rebukes, in October of 2005, 65 brothers from around the world published a letter to Kip McKean to call him to repent of many specific sins. When there was no response indicating any repentance, a second letter signed by 85 brothers published a public statement to Kip, withdrawing fellowship to help him see his serious need to repent before God and the church. The letter was motivated by godly love, a desire to promote unity, protect the flock and bring about repentance. We support the actions of this group of brothers and stand by the letter's call for repentance.

The leadership of the Chicago Church is committed to following God's leadership, building up the body of Christ and reaching the lost. We are pressing forward to achieve our vision for 2006 that "every member's spiritual fervor is evident and growing, as God produces fruit in every house church." We humbly ask the membership of the Chicago Church of Christ to strive for unity and "Love the Lord your God with all your heart, soul, mind and strength." And to God be the glory.

In brotherly love,

The Leadership of the Chicago Church of Christ