

# GOD'S UNITY PLAN FOR THE CHURCH

Apostle Remy Uwaeme

2nd Edition, April, 2008

Copyright Reserve

In the beginning God created man. Only ONE MAN He created and not two (Gen. 2:7). Man was formed from the dust of the ground and later, God, out of this one man's rib made woman. (Gen. 2: 21 - 22). Thus there emerged two persons but were made to be one (Gen. 2:24). Thereafter the Almighty Father through this two-but-one person built ONE FAMILY (one home). However this established family unit revealed God's master plan about UNITY to the world. This inseparable union of ONE FLESH is both a sign and an expression of God's purpose for man.

This theory and practical expression of God's intention about having only one body through which His divine purpose on earth will be made manifest became a target of battle from Satan as soon as God expressed it. After watching the perfect peace and cordial relationship that existed in the lives of this family, he was provoked and immediately launched his first but powerful attack with a very strong weapon, -DISOBEDIENCE (Gen. 3:1-6, 11). When it became clear that Satan had succeeded in his game-plan in introducing the wicked fruit of disobedience in this family, God then declared war against him. God (the Father) revealed the strategic position of the battle and its conquest -Satan will be CRUSHED on the head while he will STRIKE at the heel (Gen. 3:15).

Now, DISOBEDIENCE became the first and most effective weapon used by Satan in destabilizing this family unit. Later two other deadly ones emerged to consolidate the first ground and for the destruction of the remaining fabric that held the house. This manifested when Cain hated his blood brother for nothing sake other than that his brother's sacrifice was accepted by God while his own was rejected. The two deadly weapons HATRED and COVETOUSNESS exhibited themselves and played very bad role that led to Abel's death (Gen. 4:2-8).

Since then, these three weapons namely:- DISOBEDIENCE, HATRED and COVETOUSNESS became Satan's major seeds used for scattering groups and causing disunity (i.e two persons coming together to be united as one body). To guard this arrangement, God Almighty therefore put a covenant law over it thus: "FOR THIS REASON A MAN WILL LEAVE HIS MOTHER AND FATHER AND BE UNITED WITH HIS

WIFE. THE TWO WILL BECOME ONE FLESH. SO THEY ARE NO LONGER TWO BUT ONE. THEREFORE, WHAT GOD HAS JOINED TOGETHER LET NOT MAN SEPARATE.” (Gen. 2:24, Matth. 19:5-6). Through this law you could see clearly that God abhors division in the body since it is one of the carnal fruits (works) of the flesh. (Gala. 5:20).

In furtherance to His divine purpose, God established one family, that was the family of ISRAEL, as his chosen generation. (Deut 7:6, 14:2). He gave them one commandment by which they will worship him. Under this one commandment they all will be identified, every one of them even the strangers with them. (Lev. 24:22, Num 15:16). For the family to be guarded/protected, God set up an administrative arrangement to oversee the affairs of the family and make sure that the unity and oneness for which it was established was maintained. This administrative set up is as follows:- The HIGH PRIEST, the PRIESTS and the ELDERS.

Through these administrators the Israelite community was ruled, and God made Moses to be the overseer and Aaron as the second in command. (Exod. 3:4, 9-11, 4:13-16). Aaron and his children were selected to be the priests while the Levites were to be helpers (Exod. 18:21-26; 28:1). There was division of labour among Aaronic and Levitical priests. Their ministry were for the sanctification of the church of Israel and for the maintenance of the unity of the church.

Furthermore, God Almighty in a swift demonstration of His divine purpose on unity, issued a commandment on ONE PLACE OF WORSHIP. -“BE CAREFUL NOT TO SACRIFICE YOUR BURNT OFFERINGS ANYWHERE YOU PLEASE, OFFER THEM ONLY AT THE PLACE THE LORD WILL CHOSE” ONE OF YOUR TRIBES, AND THERE OBSERVE EVERY THING I COMMAND YOU. (Deut. 12:13-14).

In this last statement, it was made clear that no one should attempt to have a different place where he will be observing the laws other than the place God had chosen. Any violation of this order is a sin of idolatry against God’s divine purpose. The Israelites should go to that place God had chosen to place his name for all their offerings and sacrifices no matter the distance. This instruction was given on many occasions as warning so as not to be forgotten and disobeyed. (Check Deut. 12:4-6, 16:5-6 and chapter 26:1-2).

#### **ONE ALTER (AT SHILOH):**

The Israelites in strict observation of this commandment nearly destroyed two and half tribes from among them because they were found to have built an alter of sacrifice against the only one approved by God (Josh. 22:9-20). These were the tribes of Reuben, Gad and half tribe of Manasseh. These two and half tribes had got their land allocation by the other side of Jordan while the rest of the tribes got theirs in Canaan. Since in Canaan the alter of God was situated, these tribes (2 ½) after helping their brethren to secure their own portion in Canaan left them and went back to their own side of allocation

at Gilead (near Jordan). They decided to build another alter there for themselves. The rest of the Israelites saw this as rebellion against God. However, Reuben, Gad and half tribe of Manasseh explained their reason for the action. They denied building it for sacrifice, rather, for a proof to their children in future that they worshiped the God of Jacob their forefather (Josh 22:21-29).

It is evidently clear however that the Israelites exhibited perfect understanding and drew a divine message for this our generation that there must stand one place of worship and sacrifice, to maintain that ONE BODY. That was why they concluded that the new alter which was built by the (2 ½) two and half tribes was a make up to the TRUE ALTER at SHILOH. (Josh 22:19). Through this action they were equally bringing the picture clearer that Division is an ABOMINATION to Gods divine purpose on His family Unity.

As I mentioned earlier, the church of Israel submitted to ONE LEADERSHIP (i.e the High Priest, the priests and the Elders) with one law (COMMANDMENTS/ORDINANCES) and One judgment (Num.27:15-22, 1Sam.4:18, 2Chron.19:8-11). Under ONE LEADERSHIP and ADMINISTRATORS there must be strict observation and obedience to the laws and commandments. This was one of the reasons why the Israelites were about to fight the Reubenites and Gad when they heard that they built another alter other than the approved one at Shiloh for they feared that the Reubenites will use the opportunity to introduce another leadership/ administrative set up that will eventually make nonsense of the ONENESS programme of God as they will teach them strange laws thereby drawing them away from the original laws, against the plan of God.

#### **THE STRANGE FIRE:**

An example was given when the two sons of Aaron, as priests offered STRANGE FIRE before the Lord which God could not bear, rather He killed them instantly. (Lev. 10:1-2). Was it in vain that God chose the Nation of Israel among other nations to be his children and built only one place of worship for them? They were instructed to remain as one. No matter how knowledgeable anyone is, or how provoked he is, he is under strict restriction from fashioning another arrangement, but to abide by the commandment, a demonstration of the Divine purpose.

But do you know one thing? You see, as the battle has been declared between Satan and the family of God (the church) it has become clear that Satan is not going to sit on the fence, so he made an approach which gained access into the family and resulted in the first set back of God's divine purpose.

#### **MAN'S REBELLION AGAINST GOD'S DIVINE PURPOSE:**

Man's disinterest with God's divine purpose of unity and divine leadership arrangement became clearer when, during the reign of Samuel the Israelites refused God's leadership by Samuel, a priest and

prophet (1 Sam. 8:4-7). This singular act of rejecting God's kingship paved way for Satan's onslaught into God's uncompromising Doctrine of UNITY and ONENESS which is the hallmark of God's divine purpose. While Saul was made the first king of Israel, although by God Almighty, yet in Samuel's farewell speech, he made them to realize that it was sin, an evil, to have requested human kingship which has the potential of introducing divine loyalty between the kingship of God Almighty and human kingship (1 Sam. 12:16-18). However later, the Israelites confessed their sins of asking for a king and requested Samuel's intercession for them (verse 19).

Samuel then used the occasion to renew the Israelites' allegiance to the Lord by establishing kinship in the context of covenant renewal. The king in Israel was not to be independent (autonomous) in exercising his authority and power, rather he was to be subject to the commandment of God and the directive of the prophet. This was in line with the earlier guidance given to the Israelites by Moses as he anticipated a time when the people would ask for a king contrary to the lord's purpose for them (Deut. 17:14-20). Samuel continued to lay emphasis based on the renewed covenant that the king will be an instrument of the lord's rule over his people, and both the Israelites and the king were to continue to recognize the Lord as their Ultimate Guide.

However as I mentioned briefly about Saul, he found it difficult to submit to the requirements, hence he disobeyed the instructions given to him by Samuel the prophet and was rejected from being a king. Thus this human kingship introduced a serious politics in the kingdom of Israel which later gave birth to so many worms that helped to destroy the fabric that held the one family of Israel together. What I am saying is that the seeds of politics sprang up. These include:- SELFISH AMBITION, HATRED, SCHEMING, SCHISM and LEADERSHIP TUSSLE.

As these seeds were visibly parading themselves in the nation of Israel, they became tools used in dismantling the unity structure set up by God Almighty in the church of Israel. This new introduction brought in a crack on God's one family unit which is His divine purpose. That is to say the first schism ever experienced in the church of Israel came through human kingship. This change of kingship brought in a completely different dimension in upholding the commandment of God Almighty(unity of purpose). The rule of law began to change as the kings were found to have abandoned their duties to take over the duties of the priests. Saul, the first king of Israel was the first to commit this sacrilege. This act cost him his kingship and he later died for it .(1 sam. 13:8-9,13-14).

## **DIVISION IN THE BODY OF ISRAEL**

There is a clear evidence why the Almighty God told Samuel the prophet that He was displeased with Israel for asking for a king other than Himself (God). He said, "it is not you they have rejected, but they have rejected me as their king" (1Sam. 8:7). Their desire was for a form of kingship that denied their covenant relationship with the Lord who himself has pledged to be their Saviour and Deliverer. Since they requested to have a king like all other nations, their approach towards handling the affairs in the

leadership of the nation of Israel changed. The first king the Israelites produced came with his own manufactured laws and commandment contrary to the one used in governing them. An example was highlighted to the Israelites before their requested king emerged (1 Sam.8:10-17). This point sparked off a lot of atrocities in the kingdom of Israel. As I mentioned earlier, selfish ambition reared its ugly head and kingship become anybody's affair as far as you are of the Royal family.

After Saul was rejected to be king, perceiving that God has replaced him with David, he began to plot to kill him. He was possessed by the spirit of jealousy, this spirit moved him seriously to hunt for David like a bush rat. Although David committed no offence against him yet Saul regarded him as his worst enemy. God foresaw in David a different spirit in that he was going to acknowledge His(God's) kingship and rule over the Nation of Israel hence he chose him as a king in the place of Saul. Indeed David demonstrated this acknowledgment of the Lord's kingship and rule when he offered to build a house for God(2 Sam. 7:1-3). However since the Israelites had broken the covenant of God's divine purpose, the damage had been done notwithstanding the amendment. Although David submitted himself for God to rule the Israelites through him, including his son Solomon, yet Satan continued until the kingdom of Israel was divided into two against God's divine purpose of ONE NATION. This wicked act came by the two sons of Solomon: REHOBOAM and JEROBOAM. The divided kingdom ruled by Jeroboam was led into idolatry. He appointed his own priest and built temples against Jerusalem, rejecting the official priest and the Levites. The Levites abandoned him with those seeking God and joined Rehoboam (2 Chron. 11:13-17). You could see the reason why the Israelites had wanted to fight against the two and half tribes of Israel (i.e Reuben, Gad and ½ Manasseh). Jeroboam led the faction that presented questions which brought about the division. And when this happened, he immediately built another temple against the one approved by God and appointed his own priest outside the Levites thereby leading the Israelites into worshipping other gods than the Almighty God. He assumed the position of a priest which was an aberration in the law (1 King 13:1-5). This is a true case of SELFISH AMBITION.

This division in the kingdom of Israel introduced a lot of atrocities and misplaced orders among the children of Israel. This enabled strange and man-made law to force itself into the worship of God. The Israelites were left at the mercy of their kings who on their assumption of office introduced their own commandments with which to rule them. The Israelites began to experience confusion, leadership crises and fighting between the two kingdoms which were once before the same Israel.

### **GOD'S PROMISE OF GATHERING THE TWO KINGDOMS ONCE MORE UNDER ONE KING (JESUS CHRIST)**

It is obvious that nobody can stand against God's purpose. When Satan blocked the purpose of God for man through Eve, He (God) didn't allow Satan to have his way perpetually as He put on ground another plan to restore man's lost glory which later came to its fulfilment through our master Jesus Christ.

Therefore, as Satan thwarted the divine purpose of God Almighty (ONE FAMILY, ONE NATION, ONE KINGDOM) through the children of Solomon by dividing the kingdom into two, God having seen all the consequences therein, began plans to restore back that purpose - to unite the two kingdoms into one kingdom under one leader/shepherd. The Almighty father through the prophets began indicating His intention to rebuild the broken House of David. The Lord spoke through prophet Ezekiel thus: the word of the lord came to me: son of man, take a stick of wood and write on it., Belonging to Judah and the Israelites associated with him. Then take another stick of wood and write on it. Ephraim's stick, belonging to Joseph and all the house of Israel associated with him. Join them together into one stick so that they will become one in your hand. Hold before their eyes the sticks you have written on, and say to them, This is what the sovereign Lord says: I will take the Israelites out the Nations where they have gone. I will gather them from all around and bring them back into their own land. I will make them ONE NATION in the land in mountain of Israel. There will be one king over all of them and they will never again be two Nations or be divided into two kingdoms... (Ezek. 37:15-24). The Almighty Father continued strongly indicating his resolve to stand firmly by His divine will for his people. He spoke through Jeremiah the prophet thus; "In those days the house of Judah will join the house of Israel, and together they will come from a northern land to the land I gave your forefathers as an inheritance. (Jere. 3:18).

Let us check another plain statement the Almighty Father used in driving home his message, in the book of Hosea, he said: "The people of Judah and the people of Israel will be re-united and they will appoint one leader and come up out of the land for great will be the day of Jezreel. "(Hosea 1:11). Precisely someone is going to fulfil these prophecies of UNITY and it is no other person than THE LORD OUR RIGHTEOUSNESS.( Jer. 13:5-6)

### **THE COMING OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST**

When Jesus our lord was born, one of the prophecies about him was remembered for his mission. "But you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah are by no means least among the rulers of Judah for out of you will come a ruler who will be the shepherd of my people Israel". (Matt. 2:6)

Jesus Christ emphatically told the Jews about his person, his assigned mission for the Jewish Nation and the world at large. "I am the good shepherd, I know my sheep and my sheep know me". "I have other sheep that are not of this fold, I must bring them also. They too will listen to my voice, and there shall be ONE FLOCK and ONE SHEPHERD ". (John 10:14-16).

When the time for our lord's death was approaching, for through his death the divine purpose of God will be accomplished; the chief priests and the Pharisees gathered to plan how they will arrest him and kill him. It was in their meeting that the high priest Caiaphas prophesied that it is good that Jesus died in order to bring the scattered children of God together and make them ONE (John 11:49-52).

However, when our master Jesus Christ saw that his time was up, he made a powerful prayer to the Almighty Father about the UNITY of his children (the church). Now listen to some of the words of the prayer; "Neither pray I for these alone, but for them also which shall believe on me through their word; that they all may be ONE, as thou, Father art in me and I in thee, that they also may be one in us; I in them, and thou in me, that they may be made PERFECT IN ONE; and that the world may know that thou hast sent me, ...." (John 17:20-23).

In furtherance to maintaining this divine WILL OF GOD Paul wrote to the brethren at Ephesus of the need to keep the unity of the body, thus; make every effort to keep the unity of the spirit through the bond of peace. There is ONE BODY and ONE SPIRIT ..." (Ephes 4:3-4).

Brethren beloved, you could see with me that God Almighty has since the beginning of the creation made it plain about his DIVINE PURPOSE OF FAMILY UNITY. Although Satan fought and succeeded in destroying the purpose, yet God remains committed in maintaining His WILL.

## **DIVISION FORETOLD**

In the desperate effort of Satan in making sure he thwarts the Divine Purpose of God "UNITY", when he was driven down from heaven with his angels, it was said to the world thus; "Woe to the inhabitants of the earth and of the sea; for the devil is come down into you having great wrath, because he knoweth that he hath short time." (Rev. 12:12).

When the Church of Christ was established, he (Satan) declared war against her, pouring his wrath towards the church growth. When Apostle Paul was about to leave Miletus, he sent the elders of the church at Ephesus and warned them to be careful not to be used by Satan to cause schism in the church informing them through the spirit, of impending attack on the church through some of them. "For I know this, that after my departing shall grievous wolves enter in among you not sparing the flock. Also of your own selves shall men arise, speaking perverse things to draw away disciples after them." (Acts 20:29-30).

Furthermore, to make the information extended to other churches, Paul in his letter to Timothy reminded him to protect that sound doctrine trusted to his care so as not to allow Satan's agent to disrupt the unity of the Church. Therefore he charged him to rebuke them. "Preach the word", be instant in season out of season; reprove, rebuke, exhort with all longsuffering and doctrine. For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine; but after their own lusts shall they heap to themselves teachers having itching ears. And they shall turn away their ears from the truth, and shall be turned unto fables." (II Tim. 4:2-4).

In Apostle John's letter to the churches in Asian province presumably, he strongly warned them against the agents of Satan whom he called Anti-christ, which means, those who stand against God's Divine purpose of ONENESS and UNITY. For it is an evident truth that any person or group of person who does not uphold and defend the principles of the teachings of Jesus Christ (i.e His doctrine) but with his human wisdom withstands it is anti-christ. Remember that the principal objective of Christ's death is to unify mankind to his Father, God Almighty. "That they may be ONE even as WE ARE ONE" (John 17:22). Therefore anybody who do not defend the unity is Anti-christ. Hence John, based on this knowledge and wrote; "Little children, it is the last time; and as ye have heard that anti-christ shall come, even now are there many anti-christ; whereby we know that it is the last time. They went out from us, but they were not of us, they would no doubt have continued with us; but they went out, that they might be made manifest that they were not all of us." 1 John 2:18-19.

The pre-information continued about the time when some will leave the church and accommodate the doctrines of devils. "Now the spirit speaketh expressly, that in the latter times some shall depart from the faith, giving heed to seducing spirits and doctrines of devils". (1Tim. 4:1). Let us find out some of the Doctrines of the Devils as written in James "But if you harbor bitter envy and selfish ambition in your hearts, do not boast about it or deny the truth. Such wisdom does not come down from heaven but is earthly, unspiritual, of the devil." (James 3:14-16). When Paul heard about Divisions in the church at Corinth, he wrote and told them that heresies must arise in the church. That the main reason is for those who are approved to be manifest. That is to say that the faithful and True children of God will remain unshakable in the church while the unfaithful and false children of God will leave the church to form a party of their own in the name of Christ. "For first of all, when you come together in the church, I hear that there be divisions among you; and I partly believe it. For there must be also heresies among you, that they which are approved may be made manifest among you" (1 Cor. 11:18-19).

### **WARNING AGAINST DIVISION**

In the letter to the brethren at Galatia, Paul rightly exposed to them, enumerating the works of the flesh; STRIFE, SEDITION and HERESIES (Gal. 5:20). These three work in concert towards achieving destruction of the Body. Therefore Paul warned brethren in form of appeal, not to allow Division in the church. "Now I beseech you, brethren by the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that ye all speak the same



thing, and that there be no divisions among you; but that ye be perfectly joined together in the same mind and in the same judgment.” (1 Cor. 1:10).

Apostle Paul and the rest of the early apostles never allowed any over ambitious brother to plant in them the spirit of schism as to use them as a ladder to execute their selfish interest. I want you to carefully meditate on this statement and the question that follows:-

“Now this I say, that everyone of you saith I am of Paul, and I of Apollos and I of Cephas, and I of Christ. Is Christ divided? ...” (1Cor. 1:12-13).

This question remains unanswered among those who find it so expedient to cause divisions in the church on the ground that they were offended or found some activities which they didn't welcome. But, if division could be justified by some reasons, why did Paul warn the church in Rome to keep away from those who cause divisions. “Now I beseech you, brethren, MARK them which cause divisions and offences contrary to the Doctrine which ye have learned, and avoid them. For they that are such serve not our lord Jesus Christ...” (Rom. 16:17-18).

No wonder in Galatia, it was written boldly without compromise that these sects of people will go to hell. “...Of which I tell you,, as I have also told you in time past, that they which do such things shall not inherit the kingdom of God.” (Gal. 5:21).

Brethren, I, with the same spirit with which apostle Paul warned the churches equally appeal to you to understand very well that any person who visits you in order to show you reasons why you should leave the church and come over to him, has not the spirit of Christ, his position or personality notwithstanding (Jude 17-19). Our master Jesus Christ, confirmed this when he said; He who is not with me is against me, and he who does not gather with me scatters. (Lk. 11:23). Although, Paul before this time warned Timothy that time will come when some will not be submissive to endure sound doctrine (i.e UNITY IN PERSEVERANCE) but will be on guard to make use of any short coming or offence that might arise in the church to create another separate body outside the Body of Christ in the name of worshipping God. (2Tim. 4:3-4). Paul continued in telling the church that this divisionist spirit will be operating through some leaders in the church who will use their position to confuse the brethren under them and draw them away from the church. “Even from your own number, men will arise and DISTORT the truth (causing division) in order to draw away disciples after them. (Acts 20:30 NIV ).

Now brethren, looking at these references made in the bible, you could agree with me that DIVISION is a sin no matter its fashion. If Apostle Paul could warn brethren to avoid those who cause division in the church, how come that those divisionists inspite of this, parade themselves as heavenly bound. In the

book of Job it says thus: "Who can bring what is pure from the impure?" (Job 14:4 NIV). In other words, if Division is carnal and devilish according to Galatia 5:20 and James 3:14-15, how could it be spiritual and acceptable to God at the same time? Apostle John in one of his descriptions, called these divisionists ANTI-CHRIST. These people with their wisdom stand against the truth of the gospel about UNITY and promote anti-unity (disunity) hence they are called anti-christ.

These divisionists are not made to stay in the Body (The Church), for they are strangers. That is why they always stoop down in search of faults with which to justify their exit. Apostle John wrote about them. "Dear children, this is the last hour and as you have heard that the anti-christ is coming even now many anti-christ have come. This is how we know it is the last hour, they went out from us but they did not really belong to us; for if they belong to us they would have remained with us, but they showed that none of them belongs to us. (1 John 2:18-19 NIV).

Therefore my brethren, never allow yourself to be identified with the divisionists. Avoid them, for they are powerful in speech and have convincing reasons that tend to knock one out from his perfect standing to follow them.

### **OUR EXPERIENCE TODAY**

Brethren it is not a hidden fact that the church engaged in a long drawn battle with Satan in many spheres since 1985-86, and 1994-2001. Between 1994-99, few individuals that were baptized into the church in 1991 introduced some dangerous and devilish doctrines into the BODY. These brethren were beloved in their first year in the faith because of their zealousness and this pushed us into an error that has refused to be corrected as we ordained one of them an elder to look after the new church contrary to the written qualifications in the scripture for ordaining an elder which in part says:- "He must be able to manage his own family well and make his children obey him with all respect. For if a man does not know how to manage his own family, how can he take care of the church of Christ? He must be MATURE in the FAITH so that he will not SWELL UP with PRIDE and be condemned as the Devil was" 1Tim 3:4-6.

These three qualities were completely far from him, as an unmarried youth, he allowed pride to take him over which Satan capitalized having seen him as a ready tool to be used unto ignoble works together with other youths. (2Tim 2:20-21) They began to form cliques and started questioning everything the apostles did which their knowledge didn't approve and this gradually gave birth to judgment and condemnation of their teachers. They immediately presented themselves as those whom God sent to salvage the church. They directed their weapons against the apostles whom they know as directly responsible for guarding the truth and administering orderliness in the church.

According to Solomon in the book of proverbs ; “people who do not get along with others are interested only in themselves, they will disagree with what everyone else knows is right” (Prov. 18:1 Good News Version) These brethren, like what Paul encountered at the church in Galatia, wanted to enslave us with their own concept. They easily converted any teaching or directive from the apostles which they didn't approve to be false doctrine. And the apostles did not give them the opportunity they were looking for as we prudently defended the truth that was entrusted to the saints (Gal. 2:4-5).

They messed up the doctrine of our lord Jesus Christ on unity and completely rejected the warning of our master Jesus about DIVISION rather they admitted the spirit that governs the Pentecostal Churches today (Denominationalism), the spirit which fashioned schism as a movement, changing completely the bad colour of schism into another colour. This spirit which works in the children of disobedience (Ephes 2:2) reduces to the Zero background the real concept of schism (DIVISION) and modify it to be seen and embraced as a movement through which over-ambitious individuals or groups take cover to sever from the church and form their own.

This set of people within their five years and some months in the BODY tried as they could to turn the church as political party where individuals or groups have the right to associate or dissociate themselves from their main association. As I am saying, within these years mentioned above, they went out from the church three times with an ideology well presented as fighting for Christ. However, in the year 1999, after observing their continued rebellion against the church, the council of Elders with the apostles excommunicated them (3 in number) and served them letters of excommunication. The apostles with the church thereby withheld their sins. (Mt. 18:17-18. Jn 20:19 - 23).

The battle of 1985-86 had a different form. It was a battle of BETRAYAL OF TRUST, just as Judas Iscariot betrayed Jesus Christ. The brother whom the mantle of leadership was placed on his shoulders after the sad demise of apostle Lambert, allowed Satan to overtake him. He refused what we concluded in a meeting and walked out with ignominy, an act which caused many to shade tears publicly. After taking refuge in the scripture, and were consoled, the elders with one voice excommunicated him, and notified him that, he should keep off from the church until he accepts what the elders concluded. So the ministers were mandated by the council to go round to the churches and inform them of the excommunication. Immediately apostles Remy and Marcel arrived Aba, their first port of call, he followed them and stopped them from going to other branches, as he confessed to have accepted what the elders concluded. Apostle Marcel asked him if his move will not be like that of the old prophets who deceived his fellow prophet, leading to that prophet's death. He said No, that with all his heart he accepted. This made the apostles to stop further movement as he promised to explain the reasons why he disobeyed the council. A meeting was called and all the ministers attended and after looking into all

his presentation the elders read out what they have concluded, among which was to stop further with his intention to register the church and the abolition of Trusteeship which he invented. He accepted all these and other issues discussed. There and then the elders gave him another opportunity to furnish them with the teachings he had on 2 Tim. 3:7 as he taught that taking to medication when one is ill is denying the power of God.

So the meeting ended and the elders left for home, waiting for the date of the meeting, not knowing that Barth's acceptance was completely deceptive, clothed with bitter ambition. Instead of preparing the teachings as demanded, he wrote a letter that he has excommunicated some of the elders including the apostles. This spirit which confused him into this misbehaviour, after some attempts to rescue him, finally led him away from the body with few brethren. Although he stayed for few years with the little knowledge of the Truth in him, but when it expired, having nothing of the truth in him again being vacant in the spirit, he wandered into the spirit of Sabbath. As if that was not enough, he opted out from Sabbath and joined the Yahweh Movement where he re-baptized and finally left for what he calls Holy-Well Church. He has gone back into those things he pulled down in Christ and thereby became a dog who went back to his vomits. He has gone back to those Mosaic Laws, the rudiments of the world which have been rendered useless in Christ Jesus. Thus Peter wrote:- "For if after they have escaped the pollution of the world through the knowledge of the lord and saviour Jesus Christ, they are again entangled therein, and overcome, the latter end is worse with them than the beginning" 2 Pet. 2:20-22. That is to say that now he has failed to the extent that it is a taboo for him to mention that name Jesus Christ.

However, in that of 1994-2001 as I earlier mentioned, the people messed up the doctrine of our lord on Unity. In them we experienced completely what Paul saw in the church at Crete, REBELLION AT ORJI CHURCH "for there are many rebellious people, mere talkers and deceivers, especially those of the circumcision group. They must be silenced, because they are ruining whole households by teaching things they ought not to teach and that for the sake of dishonest gain. Even one of their own prophets has said, Cretians are always liars, evil brutes, lazy gluttons". Tit. 1:10-12.

Similarly, one of these people, in their first rebellious exit was shown in the dream where the lord called them "COBRA MAFIANS", he narrated this dream to us when the church was re-adding them into the body before they later rebelled again. With their sweet coated words they blind folded some elders who out of selfish ambition sold their former faith "and straightway forgetteth what manner of man he was", (they were) -(James 1:23-24).

One of the elders at Enugu then, so engulfed with self ambition wrote a despising letter to the apostles with a question as headline titled, ARE YOU REALLY AN APOSTLE? When the apostles received the letter, we were happy that we were receiving the same treatment which Paul received in the hand of

some ambitious brethren at Corinth who questioned his apostleship. Check 2 Corinth. chapter 10 to chapter 11.

Now brethren, these people are gradually moving towards the direction of those people we know as American Church of Christ, only few things which they learnt from the church that are still with them now are distancing them from being fully known as American Church of Christ. For example; every branch is autonomous, elders are qualified to lay hands on newly baptized members to receive the Holy Spirit contrary to Acts 8:14-17. They don't believe in having an Overseer to look after the administration of their church, contrary to 1 Tim. 3:1. Any branch is allowed to go on with his understanding (that is UNITY IN DIVERSITY) contrary to Phil. 2:1-3, 1 Cor. 1:10. To them, DIVISION OR SCHISM is not a sin, hence any branch has the freedom to pull out should they feel uncomfortable to stay together, thereby making mockery of the teachings of Jesus Christ on UNITY. (See John 17:20-23, 10:16, 11:52)

However since the year 1999, I have not ceased to make known the perfect will of our Almighty father even through his son that there must be ONE FOLD. That His children must be ONE as He and His Son are ONE.

In my letter to the elders council of 24th September, 1999, in page 2, paragraph 5, subtitled, THE UNITY OF THE BODY; I said "One of the powerful prayer of our lord Jesus Christ to His Father and our Father, is that we may be ONE. After this prayer, Satan the deceiver moved in under cover to teach and establish contrarily. He launched the system in the church which was at Corinth but Paul who said we are not ignorant of his devices, immediately rebuked the brethren who had already embraced the formula and refused to be lured into that trap" (1 Cor. 1:10-17, Jn. 17:21-23).

In continuation in page 3, I wrote, thus: "This spirit of anti-unity has the appearance of godliness, sense of belonging and preservation of sectional love, but in reality it blasphemes God and his Christ. It is a proud spirit that can indirectly cheat the receiver, first of all, with the spirit of fear of being led astray, secondly with the pride of enviable, achievements and lastly with the spirit of judgement". (1 John 4:11-12). In another letter I wrote to the entire church on the 27th of September, 1999, I encouraged them not to follow the way of those "ANTI-UNITY PEOPLE". In that year, the leadership of the church had suspended three (3) men among the elders of the church because of their excesses. They, in their reaction, drew some sympathizers and made them their disciples. In that letter I laid emphasis once more on our Father's perfect will for his children (i.e. The church). In the last page, paragraph 2, I wrote: "Finally brethren, let it be known to you that the perfect teaching of our master Jesus Christ is that his church must be ONE." (John 17:11-23). Paul resisted the temptation and rebuked those brethren who had accepted division in the name of recognizing a minister against another." Mark the warning (See 1 Cor. 1: 10). "He gathered the elders from Ephesus to Miletus and after admonishing them he expressed fear that some of them will cause division and draw some disciples away from the body". (Acts 20: 17-

30). Paul further warned the Corinthian brethren thus: "that there should be no schism in the body". (1 Cor. 12:25, Ephes. 4:1-3).

Therefore note that God has united believers in church capacity in order that one may strengthen another in good and righteous endeavour. The church on earth would indeed be a symbol of the church in heaven if the members were of one mind and of one faith. It is those who are not moved by the Holy Spirit that mar God's plan (Jude 19). Another spirit takes possession of them, and they help to strengthen the forces of darkness. Those who are sanctified by the precious blood of Christ will not become the means of counter-working the great plan which God has devised. They will do nothing to perpetrate division in the church. When there is disunion in the body the world concludes that these cannot be the people of God because they are working against one another. Therefore we are warned." (Rom. 16:17, Gal. 5:19-21)

#### **CONCLUSION:**

My beloved brethren, be strengthened and don't be caged into this web of party spirit and Division. Condemn what the lord condemns and hate what the lord hates, no matter the cause:- Matt. 6:9-10. Jn. 17:23.

Beloved Brethren, this is part of what I wrote to the church during that time establishing this fact of the gospel to them. Although there were as at then those who were carnally minded who were pursuing their selfish ambition; after receiving the letter yet they went ahead and fulfilled their fleshly desire as Apostle Paul reminded brethren at Rome that those in the flesh always mind and protect the things of the flesh and thereby become the enemy of God's Divine Will (UNITY). "For they are after the flesh they mind the things of the flesh; because the carnal mind is enmity against God; for it is not subject to the law of God, neither indeed can it be." Rom 8:5-7.

Therefore beloved brethren be watchful lest those carnal minded brethren whose portion is in this world, whose glory is in the flesh lead you into captivity. Is it not a fool that abandons his ancestral home because one of his brothers misbehaved. However how can we proclaim Christ's kingdom on earth here when we can not project and represent his purpose for the world? This is what I wrote in my letter of 9th March 2002 addressed to the elders and stewards of the church; page 1, para 6. "Again if the church cannot be a mirror of oneness and unity, as a representative of the church in heaven, where lies our claim? Therefore let us stand up with out compromise or sympathy to condemn and stop this spirit of betrayal of trust once and for all from further ruining the beauty of the body. (i.e. The church). We are saying ENOUGH IS ENOUGH. Hence all shall work tirelessly towards maintaining the unity of the body in a bond of peace. Ephes 4:3, Phil 1:27. God has called the church to display His

(God's) attributes of unity and love. Hence he has made provisions for his children (the church) to live and work together in unity and to grow together into maturity. It is an obligation and heavy responsibility for the church to keep and maintain that unity from being disturbed anymore.

## **CAUSES OF DIVISION**

When Apostle Paul was addressing brethren at Philippi, he warned them about selfish ambition or vain glory; for these two are found to be arch-enemies of unity and harmony in the church. Phil. 2:3.

SELFISH AMBITION AND VAIN GLORY were among the powerful products that brought the downfall of Satan from his position in heaven as he led a rebellious team against God (The Father). The next is covetousness. This seed emanates from selfish ambition. In one of late Bro. Lambert Odumegwu's letters (as I stated earlier) He wrote thus; "Plain covetousness pushed carnal man to struggle for what he is not given to do and the generation of these are they who opposed Paul in the circumcision issue." He further put it as a question asking - "And why do people struggle for a position not given to them of God? To destroy the simple and render many useless due to covetousness".

Brethren, you could see really through this picture that those groups who broke away from the body were poisoned by these seeds. That is why they are on their own without a leader or overseer like the Israelites of old (Judges 17:1-6), although they agree and are united for one common goal but are autonomous in administration i.e, unity in diversity. The knowledge of the Almighty Father foresaw these things that he set the foundation for any position in his church. Abiding by the rules guarding this foundation will prevent any possibility for Satan sowing those wicked seeds into man to destabilize the church. The foundation is that those vital positions in the body are being given to man by the Holy Spirit. It is gift, the choice is not human but by the spirit as he determines (1Cor. 12:7-11). That is why one cannot struggle for it or glory as if you got it on your own.

Do you think that we will stop without bringing to light another dangerous seed which with others mentioned is the root cause of division, PRIDE. It envelopes itself with the conceit of self righteousness, self-esteem, rational in dealing. Pride breeds contention and a proud man is a mocker (Prov. 13:10; 22:24). A proud spirit is full of reproach, wise in his eyes and always esteemed himself above others thereby exhibiting the character of the Pharisees towards the Republicans (Lk. 18:9-12). Pride is an enemy of humility hence a proud man can never endure in the assembly of the humbles, for he is unstable.

When the spirit of pride took possession of Korah and his clique, Dathan and Abiram, they teamed up to attack the leadership of Moses. Now Korah who through pride developed the passion to assume the role of priest used deception to advance his desire. He influenced 250 leaders who came up with their own complaints against Moses. These men with Korah arrogantly refused to answer Moses when he summoned them. (Num. 16:12). Their arrogance pushed them to file an abusive charge against Moses saying that Moses has gone too far claiming holiness more than the Israelites, lording it over them. Therefore it is enough for him. (Num. 16:13-14). Brethren don't you see how pride caused the death of so many people in Israel, 14, 700, excluding the chief rebels, Korah and his clique together with their families. No wonder the scripture says that pride goes before a fall (Pro. 16:18). The proud can never find favour in the sight of God for he is a man that is right in his ways and can never accept corrections. Hence the Lord says thus; "To fear the Lord is to hate evil, I hate pride and arrogance evil behaviour and perverse speech" (Prov. 8:13).

However, as the Lord has declared that he hates pride and arrogance, it has become necessary then that those with the spirit of pride should humble themselves in the hands of God to purge them from this spirit. As a matter of fact, the church always suffers in the hands of the proud as their selfish disobedience always stirs controversy. That is the reason why the Lord says he will punish the pride. "I will punish the world for its evil, the wicked for their sins. I will put an end to the arrogance of the haughty and will humble the pride of the ruthless." (Isa. 13:11)

Therefore beloved, keep away from any person (his position notwithstanding) who is possessed with the spirit of pride for he will sooner or later influence your understanding and obedience thereby jeopardizing your good relationship with our master Jesus Christ who allows his spirit to continue abiding in the mind of those who obey (Acts 5:32). I still maintain, please keep away from any person, be he an Apostle, Evangelist, Pastor, Teacher, Elder or influential brother or sister who is found to be self content in his wisdom (i.e. The attribute of pride) for he will introduce in you the silent system of disobeying and opposing authority. As we experienced in the year 2000 - 2001 when one of the elders, for the reasons that he was so close with the apostles and with tall selfish ambition, stood up to declare without consideration that he will make sure that he trashes the position of the apostles in the church. Do you imagine such unreasonable declaration, since he likened the church to a Town Union where one can dethrone the executives and take over (palace coup). This brother invested so much of what has, both spiritually and materially to achieve his aim but was rebuked by our Lord who builds his church.

## **CONCLUSION**



Brethren, always rejoice that we are on the foundation that is being built with the perfect material on its foundation, as the Holy Spirit directs and dictates for us. Having accepted these facts, be watchful not to allow the spirit of fear to grip you, making you to be suspicious of being misled, as this kind of spirit has tormented a lot of people forcing them out from the BODY, having no confidence in the leading of the Holy Spirit. That is why fear has a judgment to be given to it. (1 Jn. 4:18). Be watchful of any fallen brother or sister, lest he will draw you out from the body (i.e The Church), because he may later repent and come back to the Church while perhaps the door may be shut out against your own return. We are running a race which individuals will receive according to how they compete.

In 1st Corinthians chapter 9:24-27, Paul says thus: "Do you not know that in a race all the runners run, but only one gets the prize? Run in such a way as to get the prize. Every one who competes in the games go into strict training. They do it to get a crown that will not last but we (in the heavenly race) do it to get a crown that will last forever; therefore I do not run like a man running aimlessly, I do not fight like a man beating the air; No, I beat my body and make it my slave so that after I have preached to others, I myself will not be disqualified for the prize."

Since this part of the scripture has brought to light the nature of the race, that is, a race which everybody is running to have the crown, therefore you don't stop or be provoked out of the race simply because someone who is competing with you fell or pulled out from the race. Compare the advice with this scripture. "Therefore dear friends, since you already know this, be on your guard, so that you may not be carried away by the error of lawless men and fall from your secure position." (2 Pet. 3:17 NIV).

Therefore my beloved, if you accept fully that you are part of the BODY (i.e The Church) and that there is only but ONE BODY which you are part of, then bear in mind that you have an obligation to be making every effort to keep and guard the unity of the BODY. Don't allow yourself to be used to destroy it for there is grave judgment awaiting such destroyers (Ephes. 4:4-5). In furtherance to my fight against ANTI-UNITY and the perpetrators, I wrote in my letter of 9th March 2002 to the elders page 2 paragraph 4 sub-titled, THE UNITY OF THE BODY "In order not to give a chance to any threat to the unity of the body we should inculcate effectively the spirit of obedience and respect to authority. In this case, we should avoid undue sympathy for any person the church ex-communicates. This negative sympathy destroyed many people in Israel. (Check Num. 16:41-49). However we should recognize and uphold firmly this passage of the scripture ---2nd Thess. 3:6, 14:15 which says you should warn and admonish him, not praising him? Furthermore, the mentality of judging a minister should be totally condemned. (Rom. 14:4). Scrutinize 1 Cor. 3:6-7. Therefore James 4:11-12).

Finally, no matter what a minister or an elder or a respected brother commits, we should not allow it to have an effect to the unity of the Body. We should learn from our forerunners in this ministry (Acts. 21:17-26, Gal. 2:11-14), How they were able to maintain the unity of the body, the individual mistakes notwithstanding."

Finally, if after reading and knowing the Divine Will of God Almighty of ONE BODY, ONE FAMILY UNIT, yet one goes ahead in contradiction to this, know very well that such a person is a goat among the sheep, the agent of Satan whose destruction is fast breathing (1 Cor. 14:37-38).

May the grace of God help you to maintain this perfect will of God through Jesus Christ our Lord,  
Amen.

Be of good cheer, we are in for the kingdom of God.

Yours in the vine yard,

REMY,

An Apostle of our Lord Jesus .

BE YE WARNED.

THERE IS NO OTHER BODY OF CHRIST THAN THE CHURCH OF CHRIST EITHER YOU ARE IN IT OR YOU ARE NOT.

For further Inquiry, write or call:

BOX 12166 UMUNGASI ABA

E-MAIL: [apostleremy@nzukochrist.org](mailto:apostleremy@nzukochrist.org)

OR VISIT OUR WEBSITE:

[www.nzukochrist.org](http://www.nzukochrist.org)