A House Divided
September 21st, 2012

We are living more than ever in a divided world. The division used to be in three segments. There once was the dark area, the grey area, and the light area. Three divisions that displayed the place we held in this world. Now I believe this division has been reduced to two areas, that being the dark and the light.

In man's search for his or her purpose in this world, we come to a place where we must choose between the places we will live out the remainder of our days. We are born into the darkness, determined by the original sin of man and passed down to us.

At many points in this darkness, the voice of God calls to us to walk toward the light and the righteousness of Christ. Many times we head this way only to be turned away by fleshly desires that are unwilling to submit to God and His obedience. One day, as God whispers our name, we respond, turning to God for our salvation.

There are times that we have tried to live in that grey area, right between the darkness and the light. We are torn between the right way to live and the wrong way to live. We do this, trying to please our flesh or other people, not wanting to offend them for fear of losing their friendship, a promotion, or their business. It is a miserable place to live indeed.

A house divided will not stand for long. It was Joshua who spoke to his people and demanded they choose whom they would serve. Jesus once said; "Every kingdom divided against itself is brought to desolation, and every city or house divided against itself will not stand."

How then shall we live? There is set before us life or death, victory or defeat, obedience or disobedience. God says to us when He saves us not to walk in the darkness any longer. And yet, we try to live on that border of right and wrong, grasping on to the world, but losing our souls.
Again, in the words of Jesus; "And this is the condemnation, that the light has come into the world, and men loved the darkness rather than light, because their deeds were evil."

One cannot please God and live in the disobedience of the grey area. You will either be living in the darkness, trying to hide your deeds, or walking in the light where there is no fear of showing your deeds to God. This is true in your hidden life. This is true for your home. This is true for your school. This is true for your place of work. This is true for your business.

Nations fall because of the division of the darkness and the light. Families divide when grey areas tear them apart. Companies fail when grey area's of right and wrong are allowed and their practices lead them to compromise truth and doing what is right.

David Armstrong, wrote a story entitled "Bozo Cancer" in his book Managing By Storying Around, and describes this subject as it came from a "Skunk Camp" given by Tom Peters.

One of the ladies stood to say; "We've found you cannot bring in fifty people at once, teach them your culture, and expect all fifty to work out. It just doesn't happen, no matter what we do. Out of those fifty, there are going to be five bad apples, and if you keep them they will affect the other forty-five."

This can be a house or company divided with darkness trying to overcome the light and the light fighting to survive.

The moral of this story, as stated by David Armstrong, "How do you spot a bozo cancer?" is this;

1. "It's simple. The person does not believe in the company's core values, vision statement, style of leadership, and culture, and generally has a bad attitude."

2. "Some negative people can be turned around, but you can't afford to wait too long. The more power a bozo has to damage your company – either through
the amount of money she's responsible for or the number of people she's in charge of – the quicker you have to move."

3. "Cut it out before it spreads."

4. "Just as your people can be affected by a bozo, they can also be affected by leaders who are happy, creative, and hardworking. Positive leaders are also contagious."

The apostle Peter wrote, "For the time has come for judgment to begin at the house of God: and it begins with us first, what will be the end of those who do not obey the gospel of God?"

A house cannot be divided if there is unity of belief in its core values and mission statements. It begins with each of us examining our own hearts first to see if we are truly behind those core beliefs. If not fully behind them, a bigger division will be created.