

Paul talks in 1 Corinthians chapter 1 about divisions which existed in the church, begging for unity, which is the strength and the backbone of the church. Unity is simply people working together towards a single purpose. I would like to illustrate this in the following way: Let us pretend that I have here before you a wood log, a steel beam, and an axe. What would be the difference in trying to split the wood and the steel? Well, anyone knows that the wood will split easily, but the steel will ruin the axe. The reason is that the strength of the bonds between the atoms in the steel is much, much stronger than the bonds between the individual particles of wood. In the same way, the church of our Lord is strongest when the bonds of love and unity are the strongest between each individual member.

If you do not believe that the devil is prowling around seeking what church he may split, then you are sadly mistaken. Each urge you feel towards disunity, every thought you have against a brother or sister in Christ is motivated in some way by the devil. The devil has a pretty big axe, and the piece of wood, or rather the church that has the life gone out of it is the easiest to split. And it splits along the grain, along the little groups of members that sort of keep to themselves. I know that it is impossible to get to know everybody in a 'best-friend' type of basis, but we need to be open to outsiders; we need to really concentrate on loving each other more and more, so that the church can be strong. The song, 'Blest be the Tie' reminds me of the times when I was young and my shoelaces kept coming untied. I had to continually tie them back together, and sometimes I needed help. Many of the bonds of love in the fellowship of the church likewise have become untied, and we must stoop down and retie them. Then we can concentrate on saving the lost so that the church can really grow.