

## Major Tests of Our Faith – Lesson Six

### *Church Problems*

**Church problems... *why do they have to happen?*** That is a fair question, and it has been asked before, but as long as the church is made up of human beings it will face times of problems. Sometimes there will be honest questions asked that will cause issue – and other times there will be self-seeking men who want to please their own agendas. Poor attitudes such as envy and strife will be a problem as will differences between those who honestly are trying to submit to truth. ***How will that all end?*** That depends so very much on the spirit with which issues are dealt with.

This much is for sure... ***when problems come, the faith of Christians will be tested.***

1. Read **3 John 9-10** and identify the problem that existed in this church.
  
2. Would you think of the church at Philippi as being a strong church?
  - a. Read **Philippians 4:2** and identify a problem found there.
  
  - b. How can there be a problem if this is a strong church?
  
3. Even if a church is active and diligent in its work, problems can still arise. Consider the early Jerusalem church – active and doing what God would want concerning caring for its needy, yet problems still arose.
  - a. What was the church doing? **Acts 2:44-45; 4:34-35**
  
  - b. What problems grew out of this good effort that had to be addressed?  
**Acts 5:1-11; 6:1-7**
  
4. List some churches in the Bible that had problems and tell what problems they faced.

5. Read **Acts 15:36-41**. What caused the problem between Paul and Barnabas?
  - a. These are two men of great ability and accomplishments for the Lord ... and yet, when it came to a matter of judgment, they parted ways. Should we be surprised when good men differ today?
  
6. According to **1 Corinthians 11:19** what value can be found in “heresies”?
  
7. When church problems arise, what qualities are especially needed among Christians?
  
8. What can we do to help the weak maintain their faith when problems occur?

***SOUL SEARCHER...*** Think fairly and honestly

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When a problem is over, Christians do well to look back over the situation and evaluate their own actions, words, and thoughts during the time of the problem.

***What is the value of this?***