

There is only one reason why it is desperately important for each of us to focus on personally resolving our conflicts within Zion. **Plain and simple---These conflicts interfere with our ability to minister!!**

We all want to fight for what we believe in, but let us not quarrel amongst ourselves; rather let us expend our energy doing God's work--- Zion's abundant ministry. We can only move forward by focusing on this agonizingly beautiful crucifix before us each and every Sunday

Look at it. Really look at it.

Examine it. Gaze upon the face of our Lord.

Reflect on this beautiful oversized symbol of faith.

Luther did.

He developed the Theology of the Cross, a cornerstone of our faith

We only have so much time, talent, treasure and energy. Many things, like our spiritual home, are well worth fighting for and should be fought for. Zion's present issue is that we are fighting over our church, leadership and most importantly **ministry**. Internal conflict eats up our physical, emotional but most importantly spiritual energy. When arguing, we produce little. We feel drained, sapped, lifeless; rather than renewed, invigorated, enthusiastic. When we invest in fruitless things we will reap fruitless things. We have all acknowledged- It is time to move forward. We all want to move forward.

I thought about whether or not to say this, forgive me if I upset you, but "When you are going through hell, keep on going; it is not time to stop to smell the roses." Just as God graciously gave us a way out of death through this beautiful cross, fortunately, we too can get out of our current situation. We are moving forward. We have a plan of action. A plan which begins with you.

Reconciliation must begin with each of us. It is easy to hope and pray for the other to change, but really we can only change ourselves. The ability to forgive and move forward lies within each of us. We can't afford to get caught in the perpetual loop of blinding each other.

We can each begin to change by voicing our feelings, opinions, thoughts, hopes and desires for Zion on July 30th when we have our Reconciliation Day. Pastor Huber wants to meet, talk but most importantly listen to you. Voicing our individual concerns is our first step on the path to healing, wholeness and well being.

Stop the hurt. Express yourself.

Begin to free yourself in a caring, compassionate, Christian setting.

Help us understand the breadth of our problems. Sign up for Reflection Day.

Contact Liz.