

# Human Problems

**The parts of a machine serve as an allegory of human society.**

Whenever two surfaces moving in different directions touch each other, there is friction and wherever there is friction there is heat.

In the operation of our highly complex modern machinery, friction is a serious problem.

To prevent this, all contact surfaces are made as smooth as possible, and lubricants are used between the parts to reduce the friction to a minimum.

A machine is a “*society*” of metal parts, each part having its own work to do towards the fulfilment of the purpose for which the machine was designed.

Each part is working towards an end that is impossible to achieve by any individual working part alone.

**Apply this to human society, standing alone one person creates no friction or heat, but as soon as another person moves close, we have a society.**

**Because two people cannot stand still or be silent for long, this elementary society soon develops social problems.**

The separate interests of the two people cause them to move in different directions and because they are in contact there will be friction and heat.

Extend this to a full-blown society of men, women and children it is easy to see why society worldwide has troubles.

**Only** if humanity stood still and was silent, or if all its members were alike and had identical interests, there would be no problems in human society.

However the energy and activity of human beings, make a certain amount of friction that generates heat, inevitable.

**From this allegory we as Christians may learn a great deal.**

Because the Church is a society of human beings, the problems that plague families and nations are to be found also in the Christian fellowship.

If Christians stand alone, their only problems are personal, but as soon as they join other Christians, they have social problems as well.

**Even if all members of a fellowship are redeemed human beings, this fact does not make them any less human.**

**Differences of taste, temperament, opinion, moral energy and speed of action among religious people in close association creates a certain amount of friction and heat within the group.**

Wise Christian leaders will anticipate this and will know what to do when it develops.

**Inexperienced or naïve Christian leaders will consider that the new birth and indwelling of Holy Spirit would make discord and unpleasantness among their congregation impossible.**

**They did not realise they had been called to shepherd a flock of human sheep.**

**Isaiah 53:6** [King James] *“All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned every one to his own way; and the LORD hath laid on him the iniquity of us all.”*

**As human beings we all tend to have our own agenda and move in a certain direction in life unless we are allowing Jesus Christ to be the Good Shepherd in our lives, [John 10:11-16] and we follow Him wherever He leads.**

The problems arising in any church fellowship will be in direct proportion to the zeal, the activity and the energy of its members.

Some misguided Christian leaders feel that they must preserve harmony at any cost, so they do everything possible to reduce friction.

**But we need to remember that only a machine that is working will accomplish what it is designed for, and a working machine will produce friction between its parts.**

**Turn off the Power [of the Holy Spirit] and you will have no problem with moving parts, but such a fellowship will lack growth and fail to give the witness it should and fulfil the task given to the Church, [Matthew 5:13-16; Matthew 28:18-20].**

**Revelation 3:1-5** [King James] *“And unto the angel of the church in Sardis write; These things saith he that hath the seven Spirits of God, and the seven stars; I know thy works, that thou hast a name that thou livest, and art dead. Be watchful, and strengthen the things which remain, that are ready to die: for I have not found thy works perfect before God. Remember therefore how thou hast received and heard, and hold fast, and repent. If therefore thou shalt not watch, I will come on thee as a thief, and thou shalt not know what hour I will come upon thee. Thou hast a few names even in Sardis which have not defiled their garments; and they shall walk with me in white: for they are worthy. He that overcometh, the same shall be clothed in white raiment; and I will not blot out his name out of the book of life, but I will confess his name before my Father, and before his angels.”*

**This was a church where the power of the Holy Spirit was turned off, it was dead although still physically alive.**

We do not read of any internal problems for as we know the **only** place where human society has **no** problems is the cemetery. There, humans have **no** difference of opinions, they generate **no** friction heat, because they have **no** energy and **no** motion.

But their penalty is sterility and complete lack of achievement.

**What then is the conclusion of the matter?**

**Problems are the price of progress.**

**Friction accompanies any movement forward.**

A live and expanding Christian fellowship will have a certain quota of difficulties as a result of its life and activity.

**A Holy Spirit filled church will invite the anger of Satan and those humans influenced by him.**

**How then shall we deal with these problems?**

**First** of all expect them so we are not taken off-guard.

**Second**, realise that every body of Christians has its troubles, from Jesus Christ and His apostles, [Matthew 20:24 read context; Luke 22:24; Mark 9:33-34] to the present day.

**Third**, pour in copious amounts of love, the best lubricant in the world.

**Love will reduce friction to a minimum and keep the whole body of Christians working together smoothly and without injury to its parts.**

**Proverbs 10:12** [NIV] *“Hatred stirs up dissension, but love covers over all wrongs.”*

Love covers dissensions among all other human sins.

**Galatians 5:13** [King James] *“For, brethren, ye have been called unto liberty; only use not liberty for an occasion to the flesh, but by love serve one another.”*

**If we are loving one another through humble service towards others, dissensions will fade away.**

**1 John 2:10** [King James] *“He that loveth his brother abideth in the light, and there is none occasion of stumbling in him.”*

If we love our fellow Christian we avoid being a stumbling block to them in any way.

**John 15:13** [NIV] *“Greater love has no-one than this, that he lay down his life for his friends.”*

To lay down our lives for others is to give our time to fulfil any needs they may have and our resources which are the result of our working life.

When we do this we are following the example of our Saviour Jesus Christ who laid down His life, literally, for all humanity and continues to serve all humanity as our High Priest and soon-coming King.