

A Justified Sword

In Matthew 10:35, Jesus declared, “For I have come to set a man at variance...” Not peace, but a sword.

This is the only usage of the Greek word for variance in the Bible, (dicházō) #1369 in the Strong’s. It means to separate as in to cleave or put asunder. To divide what is considered a natural whole part into two completely separate working parts. The reflection is clear. We are to divide into two groups, but we are also to separate ourselves completely or separate so far apart that we essentially become two completely different groups altogether and share no similarities that relate to the former arrangement.

In legal proceedings, a judicial variance is when a natural whole is separated into two different but defining parts. Example: Allegations, by definition, demand proof. Allegations and proof are a legal unity comprising the natural whole of a judicial act. If one is presented without a defining specific complimenting of the other, then a legal variance is issued.

If you have allegations without proof, you essentially have two completely separate parts that cannot be reconciled in a court of law. If you have proof, but it is proof that does not match the specified allegations, then the same scenario exists. If the two cannot be reconciled as one, this is understood as a legal variance.

In civic ordinances, many municipalities have legal statutes governing building code permits. Property boundaries must be considered in any building project. In most cases, structures cannot be built within 10ft of the adjoining property. If the need arises to build within the 10ft zone, a legal and approved variance will need to be secured. Why? Because the law can only be viewed as whole or complete by enforcing the ordinances within the statute itself. Law and enforcement are a natural unified whole.

Also, the ordinances within the statute comprise a unified oneness. If one ordinance within the statute compromises the other, then a variance must be issued to make the new but opposing precepts operate legally as two separate independent entities without compromising the entire law. The variance reflects a legal statement that says that the two separate parts have been recognized as opposing principles of the law but will be agreed upon as legal and binding but never recognized as acceptable on their merit. The variance is thus needed for the project to continue despite the opposing differences.

A spiritual variance works much the same. Jesus recognized that families are designed as a unified whole. This is the law of nature. But due to the nuances of spiritual activity, there may come a time wherein spiritual conflict could compromise the truth, thereby creating chaos and disorder in the spirit. Jesus taught and allowed variances to be issued without condemnation to those instituting the variance. The unified whole must be legally separated, so sin and bitterness are not fostered because of the variance. A spiritual variance is a precept whereby we legally are allowed to cut family off and separate far away from them to reflect two completely different entities.

Bill Pitman