

GEORGE VERWER

THE  
HOW'S AND WHY'S

*of*  
DISUNITY

# THE HOW'S AND WHY'S *of* DISUNITY

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Good Shepherd

BOOKS

HYDERABAD

***The How's and Why's of Disunity***  
by George Verwer

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## INTRODUCTION

I wrote this a few years ago but it was never distributed in India and other places. Yet I had fantastic feedback from many people (it was circulated through email). I am so happy now that GS Media (OM Books) has published this more presentable edition with great illustration.

Some told me that I should have said more about how to solve different disunity situations, but that would make it much longer and it was not the purpose of this leaflet. I cover that in almost all my books anyway, especially in my earlier book, *Revolution of Love*. Most of my books can be downloaded free from this links (<https://www.christianstore.in/gsmebooks/> in India, as also [www.royhessionbooktrust.org](http://www.royhessionbooktrust.org) and [www.georgeverwer.com](http://www.georgeverwer.com)). Let's not give up the battle to see radical Grace and Forgiveness prevail with the unity and fruitfulness that it will bring.

Dear Friend, I would be very encouraged if you could read this and help us distribute it by digital or hard copy.

—George Verwer





## THE HOW'S AND WHY'S OF DISUNITY

For 65 years I have seen Christians turn against their pastors and leaders. When I was a new Christian two of the men who supported me the most turned against their pastor and wanted him out. My mind was semi-soured against that pastor but I kept loving him and he became, without me knowing it, a lifetime picture of messiology. We were friends when he was moving towards 90 years of age and God was still using him. He had many weaknesses and failed in different ways but helped start a number of churches. One of them has supported Drena and me in our home town area for over 40 years.

So, what have I learned all this time—over 65 years of this—both first-hand and as a Christian news and magazine reader? Yes, I have read a lots of books as well. Here are my reasons.



# 1

## OUR HUMAN SINFULNESS

*Our human sinfulness*, combined with enemy attacks as outlined in Ephesians 6:10–20, and many other passages is the bottom line.

# 2

## STRONG-MINDED LEADERS

*Strong-minded leaders, just naturally do not stick together or work well together.* Doctrine is more ‘important’ than we realise. I lost one of my best friends in the early days who felt I was not charismatic enough. Do we have any idea of how many tens of thousands of splits and relationship bust ups

there have been on that one issue? Strong-minded, focused leaders who accomplish great things are often impatient and the devil knows how to use that.



# 3

## THE GRIP OF MONEY

In full time ministry *money* is a bigger factor than we admit. People are quick to criticise if one leader, maybe the head guy, is getting more money than them — totally normal in secular situations yet they still have tons of money-related issues. People get to extremes on the ‘not fair tangent’ and it leads to hurt, confusion and a mess. The story of people in

the whole history of OM, who got upset over money issues has been untold. At the same time the story of often mega generosity and people going the





extra mile also has not been widely told. Women are often not happy with the money their husband is getting even when he might be. The complexity and potential for disunity in all this is off the charts. It seems impossible for people not to get hurt. People even threaten to go to court to get what they want. The gossip during these tough situations gets released which increases the disunity.

## 4

## THE GRIP OF POVERTY

We cannot comprehend, if we have not been there, the fear and complexity that poverty brings. Many people are given low paying jobs in Christian movement. The backbone of much of global missions in terms of the big humanitarian agencies is built on that. Some pay more than others and their senior people get much more. The complexity of this is beyond grasp. Yet God has used these movements. When people

are fired, unless they are given a “golden handshake” (sometimes to get that, people have to sign that they will not say negative



things about the agency) they complain and gossip, and even make threats of going to court. Sometimes they say they have been mistreated even if they have not been mistreated. I have hardly known any agency that did not have negative things being said about them — and I am speaking of hundreds that I have had exposure or contact with. Actually, similar things happen in local churches. I have heard about many of them as I've been in many of these churches. There are examples of people going on strike for more money and, sometimes bringing the entire company into bankruptcy and, then everyone loses their job. Often lawyers have to be involved and sometime unscrupulous outsiders, even non-believers, get involved trying to make some money from it all. People and books have some nice, idealistic answers, often with Bible verses, but that does not put food on the table and pay the rent. People get fearful and desperate and that makes them very vulnerable to do sinful and foolish things, often ending up in a worse situation or even prison. Marriages sometimes break in the middle of it. On the other hand, there must be thousands of stories of those who have been helped down life's road because some Christian agency gave them their first job even if the pay was low.





# 5

## THE GRIP OF CULTURE

We are all impacted by our culture and, especially all that happens to us before we are even 10 years of age. Getting people to submit to a leader of a different culture who will probably make cultural mistakes is very difficult. It may go for a while depending on circumstance, but then bang, something goes wrong. Misunderstanding and hurt comes in. In some cultures telling a lie is not considered that wrong. I just read a key article in well-known, acceptable newspaper on the importance of being able to effectively lie, so it's in some western culture as well. It plays havoc in Christian ministry. Soon people don't know who to trust.

People take different viewpoints. The truth is very, very hard to find and that really upsets the “total truth/total answer” guys especially when mixed with hardball legalism and super spirituality. Mix that with “God always answers

prayer and God always heals and delivers” and, you have a mess that no one is going to resolve without a lot of pain..., and who wants pain?

# 6

## THE BLAME GAME

It's hard for us humans to see our own faults. We cannot see our blind spots or they would not be blind spots anymore. I still stand amazed on how hard it is, even as a leader, to correct most people. They often immediately turn on you blaming you or pointing out some fault in your own life. In a team or office they look for someone else to blame and in some agencies they end up blaming the CEO. If they build up their case enough and know key people to talk to, the CEO (or Senior Pastor) may soon lose his job. In some cases it will be the team leader or department head. If the person in the first place had the humility to admit his mistake or



take correction, even if it is not 100% accurate, then this heavy stuff would have never taken place. I personally feel our own movement was better off when everyone had to read the book *Calvary Road*; confessing faults, humbling ourselves, learning to be broken became part of our DNA. How much is still there remains to be seen. The book is hardly read any more even though thousands of copies are going out in many languages. There are new similar books like *If You Bite and Devour One Another* and *Leading with Love* but not many have ever read them. My own books carry this message especially *Revolution of Love*, even my first book about literature evangelism, *There's Dynamite in Literature*, had a key chapter about loving one another.

## 7

## HANDLING CHANGE



Hundreds of thousands of churches around the world have split when the pastor or leaders wanted to make serious changes. Years ago I was at a key church in Copenhagen and, 75% of the people left when changes

were made. After the changes were made, the church did much better and many non-Christians came and found the Lord. Can you even imagine that churches split over



John MacArthur's teaching and Willow Creeks' teachings, to list only a few? I guess speaking in tongues must be the global leader for splitting churches. There are also whole books written about abusive leadership and books and articles on the abuse of leaders. What blows my mind is how whole new church denominations are born through such things happening. Hope you have read what I have written about *messiology*.

## 8

## THE TENDENCY TO BE NEGATIVE

*The tendency to be negative and problem oriented.* Some people, for different reasons, always seem negative. Leaders should try to find out if people are like that and not hire them in the



first place. It is Much more complex in movements like OM. By the way, a number of our key people in those early days completely threw away their Christian faith, and I am talking about Bible College graduates.

Some people seem to be unhappy no matter what. Your co-worker might be a more positive and forgiving person, but what about his/her spouse? Many a spouse has brought division between their husband/wife and their direct leader. Endless stories, even movies, have shown this harsh reality. So often, human pride is in the middle of it. We need to ask ourselves, ‘how easy is it for people to correct me or exhort me?’ I dare people to read Ken Penman’s, almost unknown, book about pride, *Pride or Praise*.

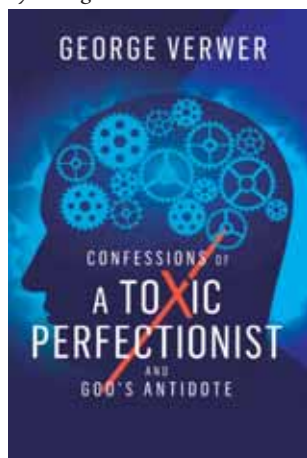


—George Verwer  
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## *Other Helpful Books on the Subject*

### **CONFESSIONS OF A TOXIC PERFECTIONIST AND GOD'S ANTIDOTE**

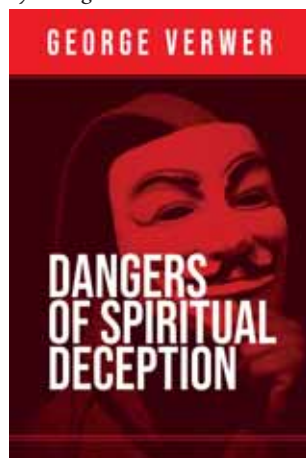
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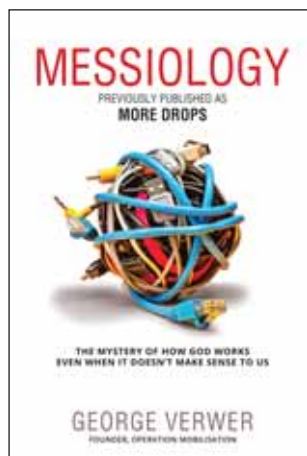
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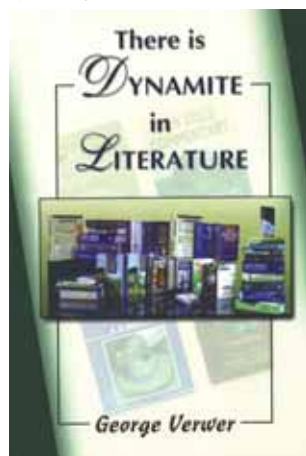
### **MESSIOLOGY**

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### **THERE IS DYNAMITE IN LITERATURE**

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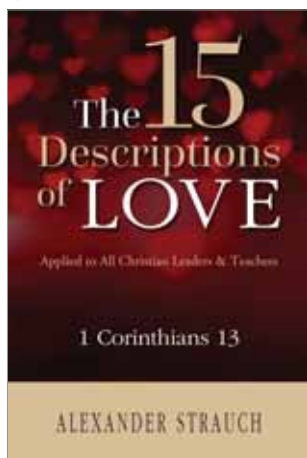




## *Other Helpful Books on the Subject*

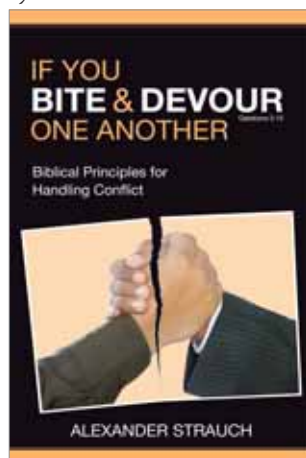
### **15 DESCRIPTIONS OF LOVE**

*by Alexander Strauch*



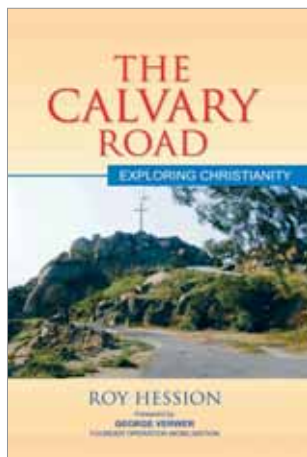
### **IF YOU BITE & DEVOUR ONE ANOTHER**

*by Alexander Strauch*



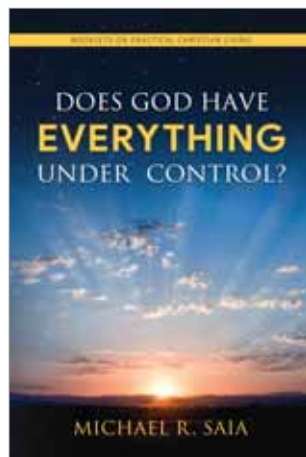
### **THE CALVARY ROAD**

*by Roy Hession*



### **DOES GOD HAVE EVERYTHING UNDER CONTROL**

*by Michael R. Saia*



# THE HOW'S AND WHY'S of DISUNITY

Disagreement or conflict within a group or church is very common. Those who disagree with someone may have a reason for that. That reason may be unreasonable for somebody else. So the disunity continues. Human beings are in a state of disunity which is evident all over the world.

George Verwer, in his decades of ministry, helped unite many warring factions. He writes on the how's and why's of disunity from his wealth of experience.

This booklet is worth reading and good for practice as well.



GEORGE VERWER is the Founder and former International Director of Operation Mobilisation, which is a ministry of evangelism, discipleship, training and church planting. He led this work from its inception in 1957 through to August 2003 when he handed over the leadership, though not retiring from the work of ministry. He and his wife, Drena, make their home in London, England. Their two sons, one daughter and grandchildren live in Britain and the United States.



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