

Ministers of the UPCI:

Greetings in Jesus' Name! Below is a letter of response I have written after several weeks of much thought and prayer. I want you to know that I have neither discussed the matters I address, nor have I consulted with Brother Haney and our other leaders about these concerns. Because so many have called and written me for my response, I have paid for this current mailing to you and hope you receive it in the spirit of love with which it was composed. I have faith that it will do some good.



James L. Kilgore

P.O. Box 15175
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August 15, 2003

Reverend Paul Price
1271 Olive Hill Lane
Napa, CA 94558-2170

Dear Brother Price:

I greet you by saying, "Jesus is Lord."

I have been hesitant to write this letter and in fact, this is my third attempt to do so, trying, at the same time, to communicate with the right spirit and in the right way. The focus of my concerns is the remarks you, an esteemed elder in our assembly, have made in two different conferences. I had originally not intended to respond, but when I received information that you had sent the tape of your lecture to all of our General Officials, I realized that I would be forced to do so.

Brother Price, you have been a hero and an example to ministers in the UPCI for many years, and I do not believe that we have a more conscientious leader than you. You are a greater man that I will ever be. There is nothing that I would say about you personally, and I would never want to hurt you in any way; however, Brother Price, I sincerely feel that you have crossed a line in our fellowship.

First of all, I feel you have crossed the line by calling fellow ministers names from the pulpit, without them being present and without contacting them regarding the problem as you saw it.

Next, I sincerely feel that you have violated written and unwritten principles of ministerial ethics, from my perspective.

Third, it appears that you are sowing discord among brethren. This is one of the things the Bible tells us that God hates. I wish there were some way you could retract the things you have been saying so that we could move on together in the spirit of unity.

Fourth, your letter and tape are very divisive, bringing a division that could force brethren to have to choose sides. If this should happen, the gap between these two factions could become wider and wider, and brethren would not want to admit their error and be reconciled one with the other.

Fifth, I would have to say that perhaps the greatest injustice was to speak the harsh things you did about our General Superintendent, Brother Kenneth Haney, whom we all feel is in the perfect will of God.

The remarks you made border on character assassination, and frankly, I was very disappointed because this seemed to be so out of character for you. I know that in times past, you and Brother Haney have been very close, and he has always shown you the respect that you deserved as a General Official. This fact also contributes to my confusion regarding your comments about him. If you really feel the way your tape suggests you feel, Brother Price, why not go to Brother Haney—or better still—keep all these things in your heart and not spread them all over the fellowship of the UPC worldwide? Quite frankly, I am not only disturbed, but also shocked, and I am searching for a way to help diffuse a situation that could hinder the work of the ministry in our organization.

Finally, may I mention that this is the first time I have known of an official making an attempt to communicate such a message to the entire fellowship. I never thought I would see the day that information that could be so confusing would be included in a letter-writing campaign that would ultimately bring hurt to our organization.

Brother Price, some of us have fought for our movement, sometimes to our own hurt, including you, and for the sake of unity, we have turned the other cheek when faced with situations directed against us personally. And we did it out of a heart of love. I have waited nearly two months to finally decide that someone had to answer your accusations, but after receiving dozens of calls from brethren who are so disappointed, I felt that the matter would not resolve on its own. Some of those who have called me have asked whether or not the confusion caused by your tape distribution is going to be characteristic of our organization and if we are destined to become little more than a politically minded assembly. It hurts me to think that my organization—the one I have loved and served for so many years—is becoming more and more a political force instead of a group with a spiritual thrust. I feel our organization needs us to encourage and strengthen our brethren and to lead the way with a greater consecration than ever before, not only in our love for the apostolic message, but also in personal conduct and attitude.

In closing, Brother Price, you and I don't have many days left in this world, and hopefully, we can feel we have given strength to the UPCI in our leadership. I know the Lord has spoken to my heart to set my house in order, and I am ready to go. If you feel I have been out of order, please listen to your tape again. If I am wrong in pouring out my heart in this letter, I certainly will ask for forgiveness. It is my desire to open the door for resolving this situation and for a reconciliation in the body of Christ.

I remain, sincerely yours in Christ,



James L. Kilgore

cc: Reverend Kenneth Haney, General Superintendent, UPCI
Reverend David K. Bernard, District Superintendent, South Texas UPCI
Fellow Ministers of the UPCI