

# SKYVIEW CHURCH

WHERE CHRISTIANS MEET

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Goats are interesting animals. One of the things goats like to do is butt heads. I don't suppose anyone knows why they do this....it may just be their nature....it may be that they do this to prove which one is stronger....but the expression "butt heads" has come to refer to two people who can't get along with each other. When they disagree and it is obvious neither one will give in, we say they are "butting heads." Imagine two goats facing each other on a small bridge, as pictured in the illustration. They can't pass each other, they cannot turn around, and they cannot back up. How can they solve this problem? The answer is fairly obvious. One can lie down on the bridge and the other one can walk over him.

There is another expression I've heard all of my life. It refers to someone we think may be void of proper understanding. We say that person doesn't have the sense of a billy goat. Actually, goats are very intelligent. Maybe a better term would be "common sense." The goat who lies down so the other can pass safely on the bridge is exhibiting a great deal of just plain common sense.

Imagine this scenario: Two Christians disagree. They butt heads. They face each other in opposition and neither is willing to back down or turn aside and especially one is not going to lie own and allow the other to pass by. Brethren will often butt heads until one or both "fall off the bridge."

Let me suggest another mental picture: Jesus met sinful man on a narrow bridge. How could He save man? He lowered Himself and took on the appearance of man in humility. In Philippians 2 Paul explains how Jesus humbled Himself, took on the form of a servant so we can be justified. Paul suggests that we have this same mind or attitude that Jesus had.

The New Testament is filled with warnings about prideful conduct. Pride causes us to insist on doing things our way. Pride causes us to disagree with everyone who does not share our opinion. Pride causes division and chaos in a congregation. Pride causes us to "butt heads" with those who disagree with us. Pride results in splits among brethren. Pride also brings about problems in families.

If we find ourselves butting heads over opinions, desires or our way of doing things, we need to have the common sense of a billy goat. We should, in humility, give in to the other person. Of course we are not talking about matter involving scriptural things, we are referring to matters of opinion and judgment. After all, most divisions come about over matters of judgment and not matters of scripture.

May we have the mind (attitude) of Christ and deal with our differences in a spirit of humility. May we have the common sense of a billy goat.