



"And now I am no more in the world,
but these are in the world..." (John 17:11).

Use this recent news story to help your students see the relevance
of this week's lesson from the Standard Lesson Commentary®
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CONFUSION OF VOICES

At this point, we don't know for sure who shot down the commercial airliner over Ukraine last week. The U.S. links Russia to the tragedy because it supplied pro-Russian rebels with anti-aircraft missiles. Denials and finger pointing have come from both the government of Ukraine and the pro-Russian rebels. Nothing can be done at this point, of course, to undo the loss of 298 innocent people. But it's safe to say that little if any progress will be made toward preventing future tragedies of this nature until the confusion of voices gives way to a singular, unified voice—a voice that says, "Never again!"

A SINGULAR VOICE

The church can accomplish its mission when Christians are of one mind and one voice (Philippians 1:27). There should never be a confusion of voices in the church. We eliminate such confusion when we take our eyes off self and focus on the good of others. When that happens, the gospel message will be clear and edifying to all.

1. What lessons can the church learn from the tragedy in Ukraine and its aftermath?
2. What can Christians do to be the hands and feet of Jesus in response to the tragedy in Ukraine?
3. How would you handle a situation where some members of a particular church believed in speaking in tongues and others did not?
4. When have you seen differences of opinion on the use of spiritual gifts result in a church split? What should have been done differently to keep the church together?
5. How will you use your spiritual gifts differently as a result of today's lesson?
6. What can the confusion in the pagan assembly of Acts 19:32 teach the church today?

—Charles R. Boatman

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