

Fighting the Lion of divisiveness

1. Unity - united, joined, a whole unit combined, integrated. Pleasantly working together for a common purpose
2. Discord - a chord is three notes forming harmony, discord is when one note doesn't fit. It sounds OFF. Discord is conflict in purpose or values
3. Division - a challenge to leadership, a split in followers. Two visions, separate agendas

Unity is about feeling a cooperative spirit, being in one accord is when it appears cooperative to outsiders, Having one vision is when we accomplish work together.

Ps 133:1 - Behold, how good and how pleasant it is for brethren to dwell together in unity!

2 Chronicles 30:12

Also in Judah the hand of God was on the people to give them unity of mind to carry out what the king and his officials had ordered, following the word of the Lord.

John 17:23

I in them and you in me—so that they may be brought to complete unity. Then the world will know that you sent me and have loved them even as you have loved me.

Ephesians 4:3

Make every effort to keep the unity of the Spirit through the bond of peace.

Ephesians 4:13

until we all reach unity in the faith and in the knowledge of the Son of God and become mature, attaining to the whole measure of the fullness of Christ.

Acts 2 When the day of Pentecost came, they were all together in one place/ with one accord.

Prov 6:16 - There are six things the Lord hates...and a person who stirs up conflict in the community.

James 4

What causes fights and quarrels among you? Don't they come from your desires that battle within you? You desire but do not have, so you kill. You covet but you cannot get what you want, so you quarrel and fight.

Esther 1:18

This very day the Persian and Median women of the nobility who have heard about the queen's conduct will respond to all the king's nobles in the same way. There will be no end of disrespect and discord.

2 Corinthians 12:20

For I am afraid that when I come I may not find you as I want you to be, and you may not find me as you want me to be. I fear that there may be discord, jealousy, fits of rage, selfish ambition, slander, gossip, arrogance and disorder.

1 Cor 1:10 - 10 Now I beseech you, brethren, by the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that ye all speak the same thing, and that there be no divisions among you; but that ye be perfectly joined together in the same mind and in the same judgment.

10 I appeal to you, brothers and sisters, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that all of you agree with one another in what you say and that there be no divisions among you, but that you be perfectly united in mind and thought. 11 My brothers and sisters, some from Chloe's household have informed me that there are quarrels among you. 12 What I mean is this: One of you says, "I follow Paul"; another, "I follow Apollos"; another, "I follow Cephas[b]"; still another, "I follow Christ."

Rom 16 - 17 I urge you, brothers and sisters, to watch out for those who cause divisions and put obstacles in your way that are contrary to the teaching you have learned. Keep away from them. 18 For such people are not serving our Lord Christ, but their own appetites. By smooth talk and flattery they deceive the minds of naive people.

How division starts –

1. Wounds manifest as Pride,
2. Rebellion from unresolved conflict
3. Values and vision are undefined
4. Jealousy
5. gossip
6. manipulation (Jezebel spirit)
7. secrecy, picking off sheep one by one (wolves in sheep's clothing)

How to put an end to it

1. follow scripture with grievances / appeals
2. never tolerate “jezebel” (call attention after all private efforts have failed)

Matt 18:15 “If your brother or sister sins, go and point out their fault, just between the two of you. If they listen to you, you have won them over. 16 But if they will not listen, take one or two others along, so that ‘every matter may be established by the testimony of two or three witnesses.’ 17 If they still refuse to listen, tell it to the church; and if they refuse to listen even to the church, treat them as you would a pagan or a tax collector.

Rev 2:20 - I have this against you: You tolerate that woman Jezebel, who calls herself a prophet. By her teaching she misleads my servants