



“RABBI, HE WHO WAS WITH YOU BEYOND THE JORDAN, TO WHOM YOU HAVE TESTIFIED—BEHOLD, HE IS BAPTIZING, AND ALL ARE COMING TO HIM!”

— JOHN 3:26 

DEALING WITH DIVISIVE PEOPLE

3rd Sunday of Tubah



WHY IS DIVISIVENESS SO BAD?

**“These six things the Lord hates,
Yes, seven are an abomination to Him:
A proud look,
A lying tongue,
Hands that shed innocent blood,
A heart that devises wicked plans,
Feet that are swift in running to evil,
A false witness who speaks lies,
And one who sows discord among
brethren.”**

(Prov. 6:16-19)



WHY IS DIVISIVENESS SO BAD?

1. It is an abomination to Him
2. It destroys unity
 - “[I pray] that they (all believers) all **may be one**, as You, Father, are in Me, and I in You; that they also **may be one in Us**, that the world may believe that You sent Me. And the glory which You gave Me I have given them, that they **may be one just as We are one**: I in them, and You in Me; that they **may be made perfect in one**, and that the world may know that You have sent Me, and have loved them as You have loved Me.” (Jn. 17:21-23)



WHY IS DIVISIVENESS SO BAD?

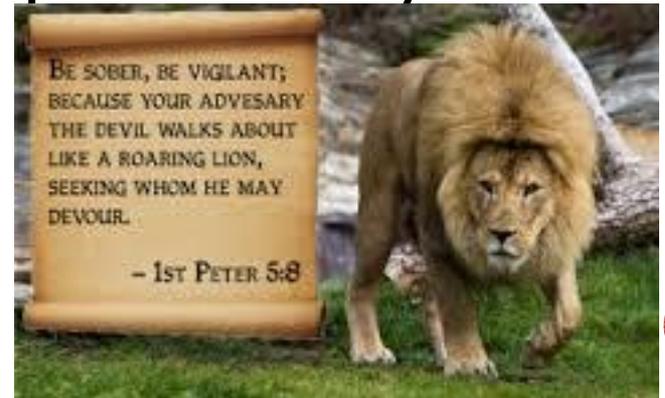
1. It is an abomination to Him
2. It destroys unity
 - The Korban
 - “I implore Euodia and I implore Syntyche to be of the same mind in the Lord.” (Phil. 4:2)



WHY IS DIVISIVENESS SO BAD?

3. Creates instability and inhibits growth
 - “Every kingdom divided against itself is brought to desolation, and every city or house divided against itself will not stand.” (Matt. 12:25)

4. Increases spiritual vulnerability
 - “Though one may be overpowered by another, two can withstand him. And a threefold cord is not quickly broken.” (Eccl. 4:12)



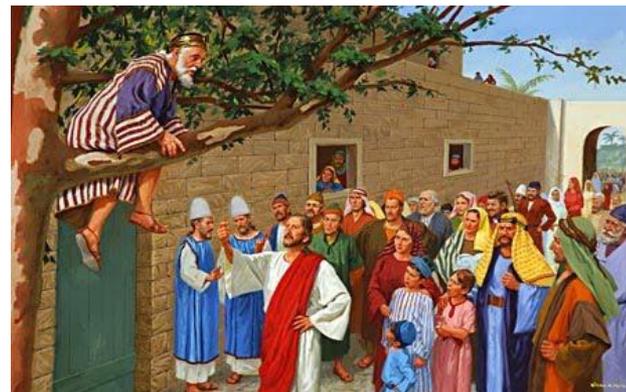
CAUSES OF DIVISION

1. Inflexibility
2. Stubbornness
3. Competitiveness
4. Jealousy
5. Heeding ungodly counsel
 - “Then the king answered the people roughly, and rejected the advice which the elders had given him; and he spoke to them according to the advice of the young men, saying, “My father made your yoke heavy, but I will add to your yoke...” (1 Kings 12:13-14)



HOW TO DEAL WITH THOSE WHO CAUSE DIVISION?

1. Refuse to go along with the complaint
 - “A man can receive nothing unless it has been given to him from heaven.” (Jn. 3:27)
 - “I am not the Christ...I have been sent before Him.” (Jn. 3:28)
 - “He who has the bride is the bridegroom...” (Jn. 3:29)
2. Not responding
 - Ex: Zacchaeus
 - But when they saw it, they all complained, saying, “He has gone to be a guest with a man who is a sinner.” (Luke 19:7)



HOW TO DEAL WITH THOSE WHO CAUSE DIVISION?

1. Avoid

- “Now I urge you, brethren, note those who cause divisions and offenses, contrary to the doctrine which you learned, and avoid them.” (Rom. 16:17)

2. Reinforce benefit of unity

3. Pray for them



SUMMARY

- Why is division so bad?
 1. It's an abomination to Him
 2. Destroys unity
 3. Creates instability and inhibits growth
 4. Increases spiritual vulnerability
- Causes of division
 1. Inflexibility
 2. Stubbornness
 3. Competitiveness
 4. Jealousy
 5. Heeding ungodly counsel
- How to deal with those who cause division?
 1. Refuse to go along with the complaint
 2. Not responding
 3. Avoid
 4. Reinforce benefit of unity
 5. Pray for them

