

DESTROYING DIVISION

Week 60 | July 22, 2025

"I appeal to you, dear brothers and sisters, by the authority of our Lord Jesus Christ, to live in **harmony** with each other. Let there be <u>no divisions</u> in the church.

Rather, be of one mind, **united** in thought and purpose."

1 Corinthians 1:10

Satan knows how **powerful** a *unified church* can be. The Enemy understands the danger that believers <u>living in harmony</u> pose to their agenda, so they do everything in their power to sow seeds of **division** among God's people. Over the millennia they have successfully *destroyed* countless families, churches, and communities through these <u>assaults</u>, leaving a trail of **mangled** and **broken** *relationships* in their wake. But we are <u>not defenseless</u>, nor will we let them continue this rampage without **a fight**. This week let us *wage war* for <u>the sake of unity</u> by praying for the destruction of our:

1. PRIDE (<u>Proverbs 16:18</u>)

- a. NOTE: Arrogance is what led to Satan's original downfall and resulted in widespread division among the hosts of heaven. Pride was also the tool he used to sow seeds of dissension between the first humans and their creator. Again, at the Tower of Babel, human ego led to the total separation of all peoples. What we see time and time again throughout scripture and human history is that it's our sense of entitlement which leads to division. The Enemy plays on our over-inflated sense of self-worth, fueling lies centered around what we think we deserve in order to foster disunity among God's people. (Isaiah 14:12-14; Revelation 12:9; Genesis 3:5; Genesis 11:4)
 - i. For Ex. "Lord God, thank You for humbling yourself in giving up Your divine privileges, for living as a man and dying on a cross for our sake. Thank You for allowing us to be one with You as a result of this great sacrifice. Work in our hearts and lives today, Lord, and cut away every toehold of pride that seeks to cause division. Set us free from what we think we deserve, giving us instead a gratitude that stems from and leads to humility. Replace the lie of entitlement with the truth of grace, for You have been so much better to us than we deserve."
 - 1. **REMEMBER:** Genuine **humility** is the key to true *unity*. (<u>Ephesians 4:2</u>)

2. LUST (<u>Jude 1:18-19</u>)

a. NOTE: Rebellion always leads to division as we are faced with a simple yet vital decision: to support those in opposition of God's teaching or to stand firm in His truth. This rebellion often stems from our fleshly desire for things outside of God's will, way, or timing. We want what we want when and how we want it, and when God or his people say otherwise our sinful nature rears its ugly head and spews all sorts of malicious and divisive lies in order to excuse and justify its behavior. Lust lies at the center of this chaos. Whether it be for food, drink, or sex; power, influence, or relationship; lust always leads to rebellion. (Rom. 16:17-18; Rev. 2:20; James 1:14-15)

- i. For Ex. "Father God, thank You for rescuing us from our sin and setting us free from the bondage of our fleshly desires. As Your children, we are no longer slaves to our sinful natures and instead have the power to live under the Spirit's leading. We ask that today You would break the hold lust has taken on so many, destroying the sinful and rebellious longings that lead to division among Your people. Give us instead a hunger for righteousness and a thirst to live life in total submission to You; to Your will, way, and waiting."
 - 1. **REMEMBER:** Harmony comes through *reconciliation*, and reconciliation through **repentance**. (Acts 3:19; Luke 17:3)

3. INSECURITY (Matthew 11:6)

- a. NOTE: In a world that is more **offendable** than ever before, God's church should be different. Instead, what we're seeing is a greater degree of offense among Christians than in years past. In many ways, this **sensitivity** stems from our own insecurity. A lack of confidence in **who we are** results in actions, comments, and decisions being taken as personal attacks and **prevents forgiveness** from flowing as freely as it should in God's family. We shouldn't be surprised, for the Enemy knows and plays on our weaknesses, seeking to use **any opening** they can find in order to further wound Christ's followers. (Proverbs 17:9; Mark 6:3; Colossians 3:13)
 - i. For Ex. "Dear Lord, thank You for giving us a brand new identity in and through Yourself. Thank You for redeeming and rebranding our lives, for sealing us in Christ through the Holy Spirit. Destroy every lie of the Enemy out there that currently sows seeds of insecurity in our hearts, fueling and feeding our sensitivities that lead to offense. Break through the divisive deceptions that attempt to paint everything as a personal attack, and teach us to find our strength, comfort, and peace in You alone."
 - 1. **REMEMBER:** When *offended*, look first at **yourself**. (<u>Luke 6:42</u>)

Questions for Reflection:

- Where can you better **embrace** an attitude of humility that leads to <u>unity</u>?
 - Examine any thought that centers on what you do or don't deserve. Entitlement likes to creep in where we least expect it.
- Do you have any unmet desires in your life that are pushing you towards rebellion?
 - Surrender them to God and ask Him instead to show you the core longing of your heart that only He can fulfill.
- Where, when, and how do you find yourself being easily offended?
 - Ask God to show you any undealt with insecurities that might lie beneath the surface, then ask Him to help you find that security in Him.