



"These five fingers," says Lucy. "Individually they're nothing but when I curl them together like this into a single unit, they form a weapon that is terrible to behold."

"Which channel do you want?" asks Linus.

Turning away, he looks at his fingers and says, "Why can't you guys get organized like that?" -- Bruce Shelley, What is the Church, p. 38.

÷ √ ÷ √ ÷ √ ÷ √ ÷ √ ÷ √ ÷ √ ÷ √ ÷ √ ÷ √ ÷ √ ÷ √

It is estimated that if the American colonies had been more unified at the time of the Revolution, The revolutionary war could have been won in 1 year; instead, because of division, it took 8 bloody years of battle.

÷ √ ÷ √ ÷ √ ÷ √ ÷ √ ÷ √ ÷ √ ÷ √ ÷ √ ÷ √ ÷ √ ÷ √

A precious little girl wandered out one cold day into the countryside of Canada. The family finally realized she was lost and started a search. Then they called the people of the community together. Each went his own way. It became dark and the cold of the Canadian winter settled down. After some time someone suggested the searchers join hands and cover the grass fields. But it was too late. They found the girl curled up, frozen in the cold. Then the shout went up, "If only we had joined hands before!" The spiritual meaning of this story is clear. Christ's love demands unity among His believers.

÷ √ ÷ √ ÷ √ ÷ √ ÷ √ ÷ √ ÷ √ ÷ √ ÷ √ ÷ √ ÷ √ ÷ √

Where there is unity there is always victory. - Publilius Syrus

÷ √ ÷ √ ÷ √ ÷ √ ÷ √ ÷ √ ÷ √ ÷ √ ÷ √ ÷ √ ÷ √ ÷ √

A high school orchestra was preparing for a concert that featured a pianist in a rendition of Grieg's A-minor concerto. Before the performance, it was customary for the orchestra to tune up with an "A" sounded by the oboe player. But the oboist was a practical joker, and he had tuned his instrument a half step higher than the piano. You can imagine the effect. After the pianist played a beautiful introduction, the members of the orchestra joined in. What confusion! Every instrument was out of tune with the piano.

In Paul's letter to the church at Philippi, the apostle mentioned two members who were "out of tune." In an otherwise peaceful and growing assembly of believers, Euodia and Syntyche were spiritually "off key." This prompted Paul to write, "I implore Euodia and I implore Syntyche to be of the same mind in the Lord (Phil. 4:2). He wanted them to know that unity among Christians was important to the work of that church.

÷ √ ÷ √ ÷ √ ÷ √ ÷ √ ÷ √ ÷ √ ÷ √ ÷ √ ÷ √ ÷ √ ÷ √

## SPIRITUAL MATH: DIVISION

INTRODUCTION - PHILIPPIANS 4:2-3

L.S. - SOME DIVISIONS . . .

I. ARE \_\_\_\_\_ TO PLEASE GOD.

A. BEING SEPARATED FROM THE \_\_\_\_\_ - 2

CORINTHIANS 6:14-17

B. MEN AND WOMEN DIVIDING \_\_\_\_\_ - 1 TIMOTHY 2:11-12

C. DIVIDING \_\_\_\_\_ FROM \_\_\_\_\_ - ROMANS 16:17

D. RIGHTLY DIVIDING THE \_\_\_\_\_ - 2 TIMOTHY 2:15

II. ARE \_\_\_\_\_ IN PLEASING GOD.

A. DIVIDING INTO \_\_\_\_\_ - TITUS 2:3-5

B. SEPARATING FROM \_\_\_\_\_ - MATTHEW 19:4-5

III. ARE \_\_\_\_\_ ALLOWING US TO PLEASE GOD

A. GEOGRAPHICAL SEPARATION OF \_\_\_\_\_ - 1 CORINTHIANS 16:19-20

B. DIVIDING \_\_\_\_\_ AND \_\_\_\_\_ - ACTS 15:38-40

IV. ARE \_\_\_\_\_, SO \_\_\_\_\_! PLEASE GOD.

A. CLIQUES - 1 CORINTHIANS 1:11-12

B. \_\_\_\_\_ - GALATIANS 2:11-12

C. \_\_\_\_\_ FIGHTS - 1 CORINTHIANS 1:10

D. \_\_\_\_\_ SEGREGATION - GALATIANS 3:28

E. \_\_\_\_\_ FAVORITISM - JAMES 2:1-4

F. \_\_\_\_\_ DIVISION - ROMANS 14:2-6

CONCLUSION:

## SPIRITUAL MATH: DIVISION

### INTRODUCTION:

A. EUODIAS AND SYNTYCHE - PHILIPPIANS 4:2-3 I beseech Euodias, and beseech Syntyche, that they be of the same mind in the Lord. (3) And I intreat thee also, true yokefellow, help those women which laboured with me in the gospel, with Clement also, and with other my fellowlabourers, whose names are in the book of life.

B. United we stand, divided we fall. - Aesop

### L.S. - SOME DIVISIONS . . .

#### I. ARE NECESSARY TO PLEASE GOD.

A. BEING SEPARATE FROM THE WORLD - 2 CORINTHIANS 6:14-17 Be ye not unequally yoked together with unbelievers: for what fellowship hath righteousness with unrighteousness? and what communion hath light with darkness? (15) And what concord hath Christ with Belial? or what part hath he that believeth with an infidel? (16) And what agreement hath the temple of God with idols? for ye are the temple of the living God; as God hath said, I will dwell in them, and walk in them; and I will be their God, and they shall be my people. (17) Wherefore come out from among them, and be ye separate, saith the Lord, and touch not the unclean thing; and I will receive you,

B. MEN AND WOMEN DIVIDING ROLES - 1 TIMOTHY 2:11-12 Let the woman learn in silence with all subjection. (12) But I suffer not a woman to teach, nor to usurp authority over the man, but to be in silence.

C. DIVIDING OBEDIENT FROM DISOBEDIENT - ROMANS 16:17 Now I beseech you, brethren, mark them which cause divisions and offences contrary to the doctrine which ye have learned; and avoid them.

D. RIGHTLY DIVIDING THE WORD - 2 TIMOTHY 2:15

Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth.

#### II. ARE HELPFUL IN PLEASING GOD.

A. DIVIDING INTO CLASSES - TITUS 2:3-5 The aged women likewise, that they be in behaviour as becometh holiness, not false accusers, not given to much wine, teachers of good things; (4) That they may teach the young women to be sober, to love their husbands, to love their children, (5) To be discreet, chaste, keepers at home, good, obedient to their own husbands, that the word of God be not blasphemed.

1. SEX
2. AGE
3. MATURITY
4. SUBJECT

B. SEPARATING FROM PARENTS. - MATTHEW 19:4-5 And he answered and said unto them, Have ye not read, that he which made them at the beginning made them male and female, (5) And said, For this cause shall a man leave father and mother, and shall cleave to his wife: and they twain shall be one flesh?

#### III. ARE HARMLESS ALLOWING US TO PLEASE GOD.

A. GEOGRAPHICAL SEPARATION OF CONGREGATIONS - 1 CORINTHIANS 16:19-20 The churches of Asia salute you. Aquila and Priscilla salute you much in the Lord, with the church that is in their house. (20) All the brethren greet you. Greet ye one another with an holy kiss.

B. DIVIDING PERSONNEL AND RESOURCES - ACTS 15:38-40 But Paul thought not good to take him with them, who departed from them from Pamphylia, and went not with them to the work. (39) And the contention was so sharp between them, that they departed asunder one from the other: and so Barnabas took Mark, and sailed unto Cyprus; (40) And Paul chose Silas, and departed, being recommended by the brethren unto the grace of God.

#### IV. ARE SINFUL, SO DON'T! PLEASE GOD.

A. CLIQUES - 1 CORINTHIANS 1:11-12 For it hath been declared unto me of you, my brethren, by them which are of the house of Chloe, that there are contentions among you. (12) Now this I say, that every one of you saith, I am of Paul; and I of Apollos; and I of Cephas; and I of Christ.

B. RACIAL - GALATIANS 2:11-12 But when Peter was come to Antioch, I withstood him to the face, because he was to be blamed. (12) For before that certain came from James, he did eat with the Gentiles: but when they were come, he withdrew and separated himself, fearing them which were of the circumcision.

C. PERSONALITY FIGHTS - 1 CORINTHIANS 1:10 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.

D. SOCIAL STATUS SEGREGATION - GALATIANS 3:28 There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither bond nor free, there is neither male nor female: for ye are all one in Christ Jesus.

E. ECONOMIC FAVORITISM - JAMES 2:1-4 My brethren, have not the faith of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Lord of glory, with respect of persons. (2) For if there come unto your assembly a man with a gold ring, in goodly apparel, and there come in also a poor man in vile raiment; (3) And ye have respect to him that weareth the gay clothing, and say unto him, Sit thou here in a good place; and say to the poor, Stand thou there, or sit here under my footstool: (4) Are ye not then partial in yourselves, and are become judges of evil thoughts?

F. OPINION DIVISION - ROMANS 14:2-6 For one believeth that he may eat all things: another, who is weak, eateth herbs. (3) Let not him that eateth despise him that eateth not; and let not him which eateth not judge him that eateth: for God hath received him. (4) Who art thou that judgest another man's servant? to his own master he

standeth or falleth. Yea, he shall be holden up: for God is able to make him stand. (5) One man esteemeth one day above another: another esteemeth every day alike. Let every man be fully persuaded in his own mind. (6) He that regardeth the day, regardeth it unto the Lord; and he that regardeth not the day, to the Lord he doth not regard it. He that eateth, eateth to the Lord, for he giveth God thanks; and he that eateth not, to the Lord he eateth not, and giveth God thanks.

#### CONCLUSION

A. Are you dividing what should be divided, or dividing what should not be divided?

B. Don't be divided from God by sin.



John 17:21

That they all may be  
one; as thou, Father,  
art in me, and I in thee,  
that they also may be  
one in us: that the  
world may believe that  
thou hast sent me.