



Changing The Things That Do Not Work (Division, Part 4)
(Embrace Good Thinking)

November 28, 2021

Series Summary:

1. Face the Weaknesses in a Divided Kingdom
2. Face the Dangers of a Divided Government
3. Embrace the Benefits of Being United and Thankful (Thanksgiving 2021)
4. Embrace the Benefits of Good Thinking and Avoiding Division

I. Jesus Thoughts About Division

25 Jesus knew their thoughts and said to them, “**Every kingdom** divided against itself will be **ruined**, and **every city or household** divided against itself will not stand. **26 If Satan drives out Satan, he is divided against himself.** How then can his kingdom stand? (Matthew 12:25-26, NIV)

1. **Household Division:** We are facing an unusual trend of family division and violence
2. **City Division:** The division in a local community can ruin everything for everyone

Summary: How Kingdoms Are Destroyed

- The quickest way to destroy a kingdom is to divide people. Division in the end ruin everything in the kingdom. It is never in a nations, households, or communities’ best interest to be divided. We should focus on winning, fighting, and working together for our common interest.

**II. Three Thinking Habits That Can Cause Division
And Manipulate You Into Bad Decisions**

Resource: “The Science of Fear: How the Culture of Fear Manipulates Your Brain.” by, Daniel Gardner.

Statement: A lot of division and fear are rooted in three approaches to thinking.

1. **Confirmation bias**
 - Once a belief is in place, we screen what we see and hear in a biased way that ensures our beliefs are “proven” correct.
2. **Group Polarization**
 - “When people who share beliefs get together in groups, they become more convinced that their beliefs are right and they become more extreme in their views.” (Page 15)
 - Put confirmation bias, group polarization, and culture together, and we start to understand why people can come to completely different views about which risks are frightening and which aren’t worth a second thought.
3. **Anchoring (The Anchoring Rule)**
 - The Anchoring Rule can also be used to skew public opinion surveys to suit one’s purposes. Say you’re the head of an environmental group and you want to show that the public supports spending a considerable amount of money cleaning up a lake. You do this by conducting a survey



- that begins with a question about whether the respondent would be willing to contribute some money—say \$200—to clean up the lake.

Conclusion:

My goal is to help you Avoid being tossed around during this season. (Ephesians 4:14-16)

- Then we will no longer be infants, tossed back and forth by the waves, and blown here and there by every wind of teaching and by the cunning and craftiness of people in their deceitful scheming. From him the whole body, joined and held together by every supporting ligament, grows and builds itself up in love, as each part does its work.

Next Time: Doing What Works (Be Unified)

Read Ahead: Acts 2:1