

Handout

SOP: Strategy—Divide and Conquer

Root concept

- The Roman fragmented the people they conquered so as to prevent a rebellion
- Strategy for controlling diverse populations by preventing them from uniting
- Creates weakness by sowing distrust—then attacking the weakest member
- By dividing enemy—you can use a smaller force to defeat a great army

Kingdom Perspective

Matthew 12:24-26

Mark 3:24-26

Luke 12:51-53

Acts 14:3-4

I Corinthians 1:10-13

I Corinthians 11:18-19

What Fuels Division in the Scripture

- Sin—Genesis 3:15
- Selfish ambition and pride—James 3:14
- Jealousy—James 3:16, Genesis 4
- Lust—James 4:2, II Sam 11:1-2,15
- Worldliness (soul driven)—Jude 19
- False teaching—Titus 3:9-11, Romans 16:17

The Breakdown Before the Breach

- **Trust** (mistrust comes from infidelity, lying, abuse, lack of communication, negligence, unresolved conflict, and emotional unavailability)
- **Respect** (Contempt, belittling, defensiveness, ignoring, lack of valuing the other, unforgiveness) Disrespect comes when there is an erosion of trust.
- **Devotion** (loss of respect/trust leads to emotional withdrawal, resentment, conflict, creating distance instead of devotion.

Strategy of Unity

- Must be restored to oneness with the Father before we can experience true oneness with one another—or we risk Tower of Babel
- Jesus modeled submission to the Father—reliance on the Holy Spirit—modeled with oneness looked like.
- Three strand cord is not easily broken (Ecc 4:12)—When one or two face a challenge—the third/God—makes the bond unbreakable.

