

Division

A negative, sinful force that harms relationships



There is a positive aspect of division; *division of work*. But division of work really requires unity, working together to divide the work to accomplish a task or what needs to be done. The division we see in the world today, in our nation, in our churches, in our families and in our marriages, is *not* positive; in fact, *it is sin*. The Word of God consistently calls for unity and working together, rather than living in opposition with one another. Yes, we will have our differences, but we are meant to work together to use those differences for the glory of God and the good of our relationship.

Marriage brings together to very different people. Our genetic, cultural, familial, and personality differences can, and often does, bring division in our marriages. But if we work to understand those differences and then use those differences positively, they will help us grow and be a testimony of God's love and His work in our lives. I cannot tell you how many couples over the years have told us; "You just don't understand, we are just too different." It dumbfounds me and sometimes I will even sometimes ask, do you see Carmen and I? She is Hispanic and I am definitely not Hispanic. Our lives until we came together in marriage (and even some years after marriage) were wildly different. But we worked through those differences to find common ground and to understand and appreciate each other and our differences.

Satan wants division; he wants to see division in all of our relationships, especially our marriages. And then there is our flesh and our selfish desires. The Lord Jesus died for us so that we could turn away from Satan's temptations and our fleshly desires and that we could live life God's way, instead our way. I cannot tell you how many couples we have seen turn away from the division in their marriages and build unity into their lives, marriage and family. You can also; if you are stuck, get help and if you are blessed to have unity and not division in your marriage, help others, even if it is just to give them an encouraging word.

Helpful Resources: *Fortified Marriages Resource page:* www.fortifiedmarriages.com

Article to check out:

7 Reasons Marriages Get Stuck (And Stay That Way) by Mark Brandes - www.markbrandes.com