A large tree stands in the center of the image, split vertically. The left side of the tree is bare and dark, while the right side is lush with vibrant green leaves. The ground is also split: the left side is a cracked, brown, arid landscape, and the right side is a rolling green hillside. The sky is filled with dramatic, dark clouds on the left and lighter, blue sky with white clouds on the right. The text 'A NEW SEASON' is overlaid in white, serif font across the tree's canopy.

A  
NEW  
SEASON

“a new season of  
expressing  
our core values  
and  
what we’re called to do”

“Prepare to  
become a place  
where the glory of God  
does not just come to visit  
but rather where  
the glory of God  
comes to dwell.”

*January 29, 2019*



an active  
and ongoing  
experience of  
life with the  
Spirit

In him you also are being  
built together into a dwelling  
place for God by the Spirit.

Ephesians 2:22 ESV

I therefore, a prisoner for the Lord,  
urge you to walk in a manner worthy  
of the calling to which you have been called,  
<sup>2</sup> with all humility and gentleness,  
with patience,  
bearing with one another in love,  
<sup>3</sup> eager to maintain  
the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace.

Ephesians 4:1-3 ESV

I therefore, a prisoner for the Lord,  
urge you to walk in a manner worthy  
of the calling to which you have been called,

<sup>2</sup> **with all humility and gentleness,  
with patience,  
bearing with one another in love,**

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Ephesians 4:1-3 ESV

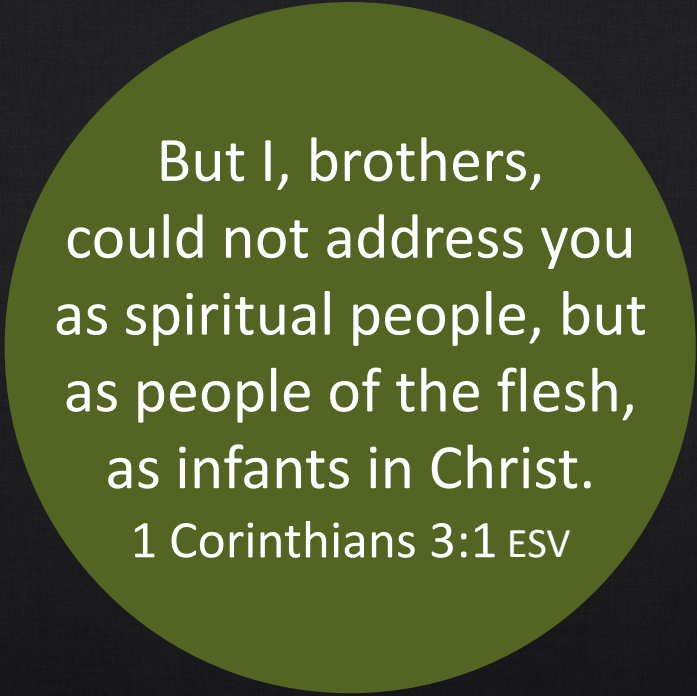
relational  
holiness

moral  
holiness

Therefore I, the prisoner in the Lord,  
urge you to walk worthy  
of the calling you have received...  
<sup>3</sup> making every effort to keep the unity  
of the Spirit through the bond of peace.  
Ephesians 4:1,3 CSB

To become and remain a people and a place upon whom the glory of God does not just come to visit, but rather upon whom the glory of God comes to dwell, will require a sufficiently large percentage of truly mature believers who walk in relational and moral holiness, *and* who “make every effort” to protect the church family against the divisive strategies of the kingdom of darkness, as well as the selfish ambition and divisive behavior of people.





But I, brothers,  
could not address you  
as spiritual people, but  
as people of the flesh,  
as infants in Christ.

1 Corinthians 3:1 ESV

# three common destroyers of the unity of the Spirit

a divisive  
person

“a bitter  
spirit” that,  
as it spreads,  
chokes out  
the bond of  
peace

“bitter  
jealousy  
and selfish  
ambition”

dichostsis  
to stand apart

a divisive  
person


skandala  
the moveable  
stick or trigger  
of a trap

But I urge you, brothers, to watch out for those who cause divisions and offenses contrary to the teaching that you learned, and keep away from them. <sup>18</sup> For such people are not serving Christ our Lord but their own appetites.

Romans 16:17-18a EHV

A perverse man stirs up strife.  
A whisperer separates close friends.

Proverbs 16:28 WEB



nirgan  
murmur,  
whisper

## eight common traits of a divisive person

causes  
division

has difficulty  
maintaining  
relationships

frequent  
quarrels, but  
always sees  
others as the  
problem

very self-  
focused, even  
when serving  
others

seem nearly  
incapable of  
letting go of  
an offence

commonly  
questions the  
decisions and  
motivations  
of others

deliberately  
undermines  
those in  
authority

cultivates  
others to win  
them over to  
their point  
of view

Warn a divisive person once, and then warn them a second time. After that, have nothing to do with them. <sup>11</sup> You may be sure that such people are warped and sinful; they are self-condemned.

Titus 3:10-11 NIV

If it's possible,  
as far as you can,  
live at peace with  
all people.

Romans 12:18 NTE

“a bitter  
spirit” that,  
as it spreads,  
chokes out  
the bond of  
peace

Let it be your ambition to live at peace with all men and to achieve holiness “without which no man shall see the Lord”. Be careful that none of you fails to respond to the grace which God gives, for if he does there can very easily spring up in him a bitter spirit which is not only bad in itself but can also poison the lives of many others.

Hebrews 12:14-15 PHILLIPS

Be careful that none  
of you fails to respond  
to the grace which God gives,  
for if he does there can very  
easily spring up in him a bitter  
spirit which is not only bad  
in itself but can also poison  
the lives of many others.

Hebrews 12:15 PHILLIPS

Put on then,  
as God's chosen ones,  
holy and beloved,  
compassionate hearts,  
kindness,  
humility,  
meekness,  
and patience,

<sup>13</sup> bearing with one another  
and,

if one has a complaint against another,  
forgiving each other;  
as the Lord has forgiven you,  
so you also must forgive.

Colossians 3:12-13 ESV



But if you have bitter **jealousy** and **selfish ambition** in your hearts, do not boast and be false to the truth.

<sup>15</sup> This is not the wisdom that comes down from above, but is earthly, unspiritual, demonic. <sup>16</sup> For where jealousy and selfish ambition exist, there will be disorder and every vile practice.

James 3:14-16 ESV

zeelon

“a particularly strong feeling of resentment and jealousy against someone”

eritheian

“a desire to put oneself forward”; implies a feeling of rivalry toward other people

“bitter jealousy and selfish ambition”

Do you not  
know that you  
are God's temple  
and that God's  
Spirit dwells  
in you?

1 Corinthians 3:16



If anyone destroys  
God's temple, God will  
destroy him. For God's  
temple is holy, and  
you are that temple.

Ephesians 4:1

“

It is a severe warning.  
He has real destruction in  
mind, and those who destroy  
God's temple will also be  
destroyed. There is no  
narrow escape from this sin.

David E. Garland

...the strongest warning  
in the New Testament  
against those who would  
take the church lightly  
and destroy it by worldly  
wisdom and division.

Gordon D. Fee

”

In him you also are being  
built together into a dwelling  
place for God by the Spirit.

Ephesians 2:22 ESV

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