

Guarding the Gospel of Grace

Preserving Liberty in Christ

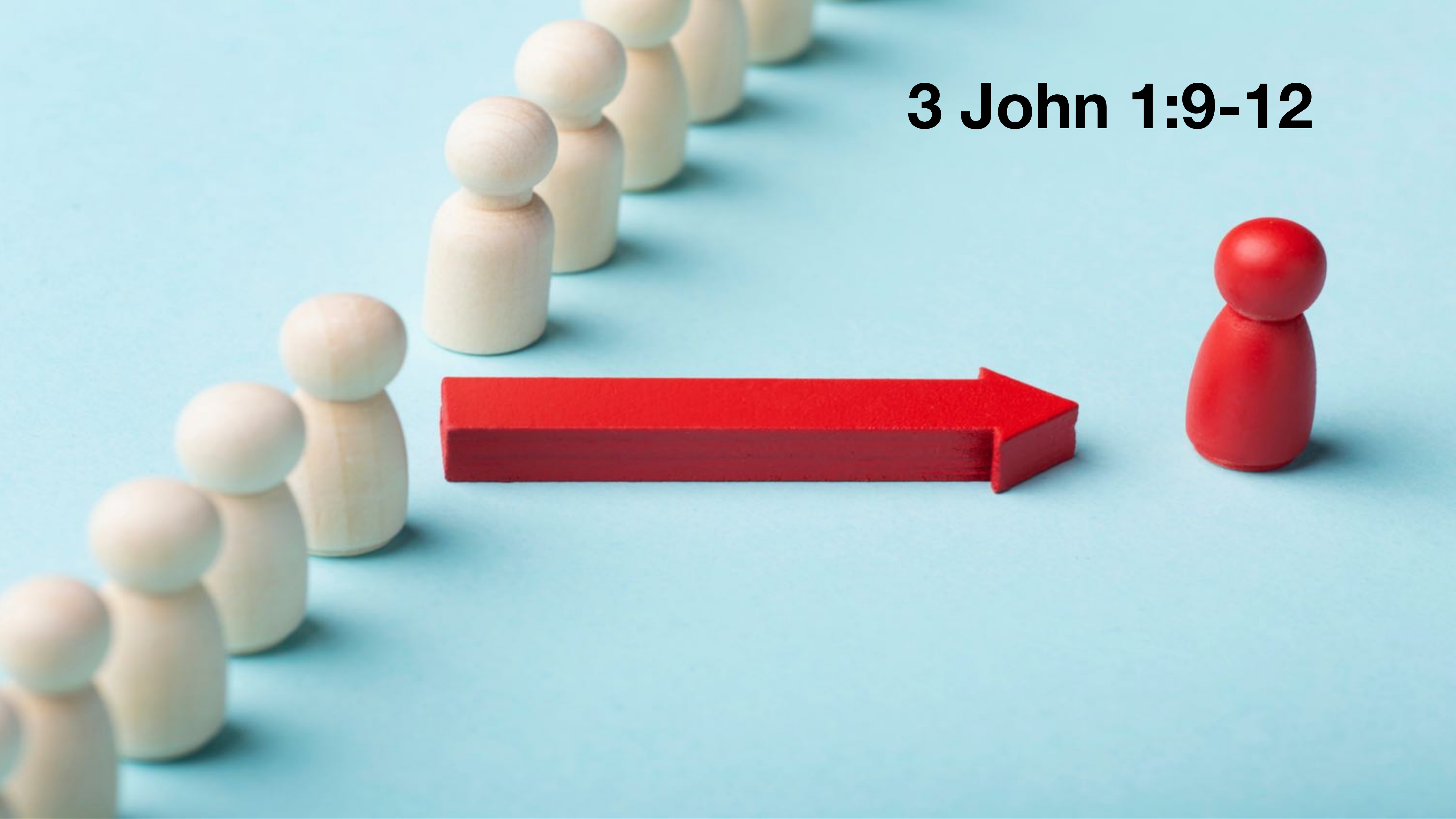




God's plan for Leaders

- **Acts 15:5-6** - Leaders solving problems
- **Acts 14:23** - Ordaining elders in every church
- **Acts 20:28** - Leaders overseeing the flock
- **1 Thes 5:12-13** - Honoring leaders
- **1 Tim 3:1** - The office of a bishop (elder)
- **Titus 1:5** - Ordaining elders in every city

3 John 1:9-12



God's warnings about **Leaders**

- **Acts 20:29-31** - Some will draw away disciples
- **1 Cor 1:11; 3:3** - Contentions over leaders

The Book of Galatians

1-2 The Gospel of Grace **Defended**

➔ 3-4 The Gospel of Grace **Explained**

5-6 The Gospel of Grace **Applied**



Galatians 4:11-20



Galatians 4:12-20

A. **False Leaders** drive wedges
with **Godly Leaders** 12-16

B. **False Leaders** steal hearts
from **Godly Leaders** 17-18

C. **False Leaders** cause pain
to **Godly Leaders** 19-20



Galatians 4:12-20

A. False Leaders Drive Wedges with Godly Leaders:

¹² Brethren, I beseech you, be as I *am*; for I *am* as ye *are*: ye have not injured me at all. ¹³ Ye know how through infirmity of the flesh I preached the gospel unto you at the first. ¹⁴ And my temptation which was in my flesh ye despised not, nor rejected; but received me as an angel of God, *even* as Christ Jesus.

¹⁵ Where is then the blessedness ye spake of? for I bear you record, that, if *it had been* possible, ye would have plucked out your own eyes, and have given them to me. ¹⁶ Am I therefore become your enemy, because I tell you the truth?

A. **False Leaders** drive wedges with **Godly Leaders**

- **How** the Galatians honored Paul **before**
 - They received him as he was
 - They would have sacrificed to help him
- (**How** the Galatians dishonored Paul **now**)

Galatians 4:12-20

A. **False Leaders** drive wedges
with **Godly Leaders** 12-16

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Galatians 4:12-20

B. False Leaders Steal Hearts from Godly Leaders:

¹⁷ They zealously affect you, *but* not well; yea, they would exclude you, that ye might affect them. ¹⁸ But *it is* good to be zealously affected always in *a good thing*, and not only when I am present with you.

B. **False Leaders** steal hearts from **Godly Leaders**

- False Leaders **pressured** the Galatians
 - To forsake Paul
 - To follow them
- False Leaders **diverted** the Galatians

Galatians 4:12-20

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Galatians 4:12-20

C. False Leaders Cause Pain to Godly Leaders:

¹⁹ My little children, of whom I travail in birth again until Christ be formed in you, ²⁰ I desire to be present with you now, and to change my voice; for I stand in doubt of you.

C. **False Leaders** cause pain to **Godly Leaders**

- Paul **felt the pain** of their defection
 - He had once “given birth” to them spiritually
 - He was again “giving birth” to them spiritually
- Paul **felt a doubt** about their loyalty
 - He wanted to be with them in person
 - He wanted to speak differently with them

How does all of this **work out**?

- Review and repent of any way you have been **involved in encouraging** disunity
- Review and repent of any way you have been **encouraged toward** disunity

How does all of this **work out**?

1. **Come to your leaders** with concerns, questions, or disagreements

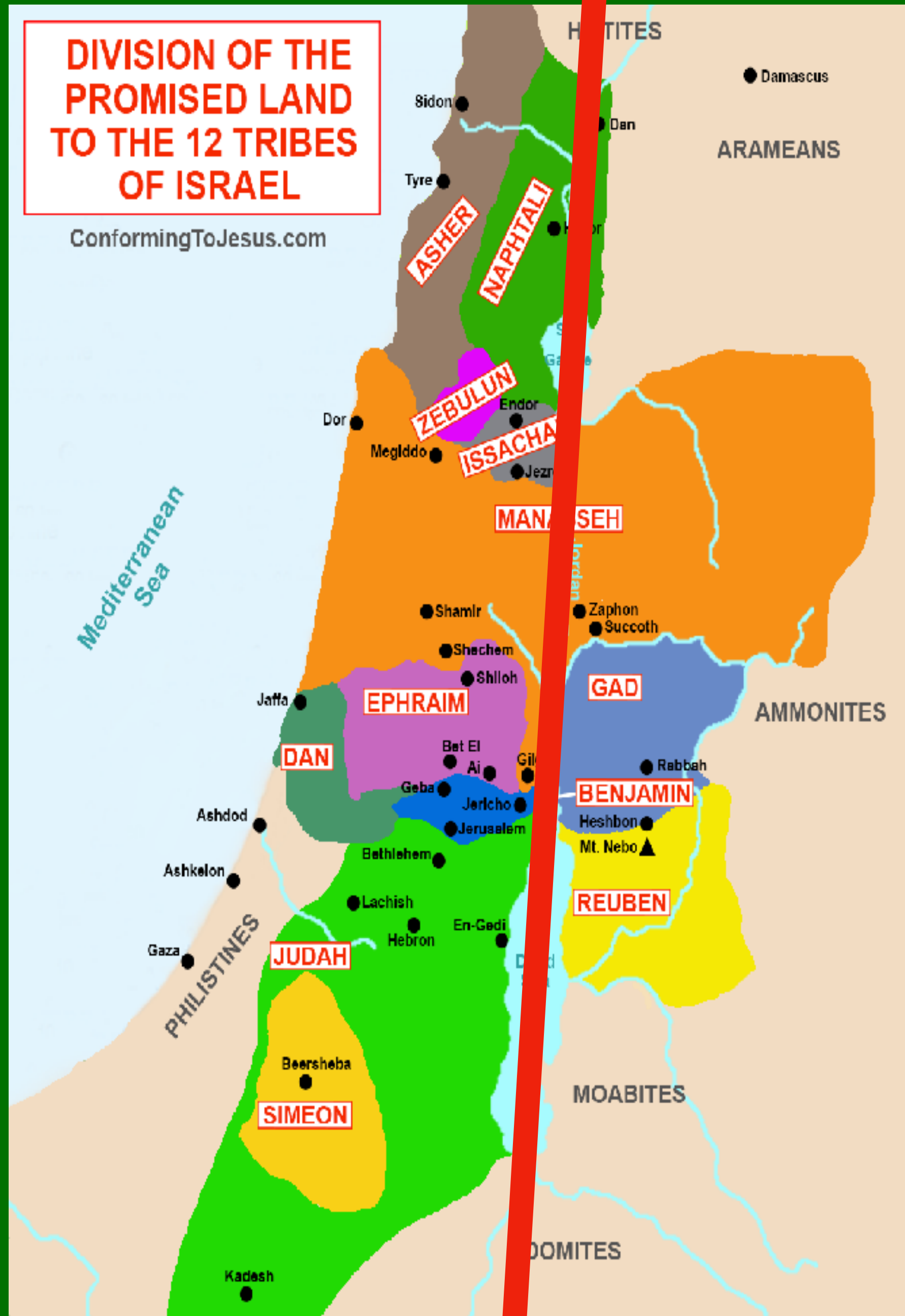
- Don't hide behind the excuse the your leaders are “unapproachable”
- Don't “jump to conclusions”

Jumping to Conclusions

- You **see or hear something** yourself - **Facts**
- You **Interpret** those **Facts**
- You **Speak** about those **Facts** to someone else
- The other person **Adds** his own **Facts**
- The other person **Interprets** the added **Facts**
- New **Facts** seem to confirm your **Interpretation**
- You both **Agree** to the **Interpretation**
- Others may get involved the same way ...

Jumping to Conclusions

- **Numbers 32** - (Individual) Moses misunderstands the request of the 2-1/2 tribes who want to stay east of Jordan
- **Joshua 22** - (Group) The 10-1/2 tribes misunderstand when the 2-1/2 tribes build an altar on the border near Jordan



Jumping to Conclusions

You see or hear	“2”	It is actually	“1”
He sees or hears	<u>“2”</u>	It is actually	<u>“5”</u>
Interpreted total	“4”	Actual total	“6”

How does all of this **work out**?

2. **Avoid gossip** about your leaders

- Discussing problems with those who are not

- **part of the problem**

-or-

- **part of the solution**

Oh, if only ...

- The **Galatians** had written Paul about this new teaching!
- The **Galatians** had trusted the care that Paul had shown when he was with them!
- The **Galatians** had seen through the division these new leaders were bringing about!

Psalm 133:1,3

**Behold, how good and pleasant it is for
brethren to dwell together in unity! ...
... for there the Lord commanded the
blessing, even life for evermore.**

Hymn #397

**“Come, All Christians,
Be Committed”**

rus, Sang as they welcomed His
bor, Tell of the sor - row He bore,
er, Clear - er than ev - er I see;

D. C. for Chorus
to earth,

else could