Sowing Discord Is Disgusting
3. Rejoice in the sweetness of unity - how pleasant and sweet it is for saints to dwell together - Psalm 133:1. And a song also which we will sing in just a moment.

4. Actively be a peace MAKER. Blessed are the peaceMAKERS - Matthew 5:9.

5. Rather than sowing discord...sow peace...James 3:14-16. If we are all in the one Spirit and the one body, we will work together, and we will show the world that we are the children of God, the true followers of Christ.

Conclusion: Phil. 2:1-5

...which we will sing in just a moment.

Introduction: The Lord hates one who sows discord among brethren. Now, you might be quick to say, don't you mean God hates the sowing of discord, not the person? Well, let's read it... Proverbs 6:16-19. These six things doth the LORD hate: yea, the seven are an abomination unto him: a proud look, a lying tongue, and hands that shed innocent blood, an heart that devises wicked imaginations, feet that be swift in running to mischief, a false witness that speaks lies, and he that sows discord among brethren.

The wise Solomon stands by saying these are six sins that are part of a worthless, wicked man who sows discord. Notice in Proverbs 6:16-19 these six sins are categorized in the midst of easily recognizable crimes against God. This is a wonderful reminder. Notice also in this passage, the phrase, "sends discord among brethren" appears twice. Clearly, evil and the seeds of discord are evil. 6:19 says, "he that sows discord among brethren." To do so is abominable. Scripture is clear. To do so is a worthless, wicked man who sows discord. Notice 6:14-15. To do something in the middle of an ungodly list of things such as murder, dishonoring parents, sexual immorality, theft, and slander...is abominable. Notice, it is not the evil, it is the act. It is like the list of ungodly things the Zealots, the Pharisees, and the Sadducees have. Here we see a God who is putting certain things into the same category. God is classifying these things as ungodly. And the point is the same. God is classifying these six things as ungodly, as ungodly things, as ungodly behavior. God is calling these things ungodly.

I Cor. 3:3 says about the same thing. "The Lord is of faithful, fearful, ungodly, foresees, etc." This is God's perspective on the actions of mankind. God is clearly not happy with these things. It is God's perspective, not man's perspective. God looks upon this sin with great disgust. Galatians 5:19-21. Notice the sandwich number done on those six things in the middle...a way to make a point. What's the point? These six things are a list of fleshly, carnal, ungodly type behavior...I Cor. 3:3 says about the same thing.
5. Through quarreling - II Tim 2:24...immediately following verse 23 he says this. Strife often involves quarreling and the man of God must not quarrel.

Remember: It is not just discord that is wrong and abominable...but SOWING discord...doing that which contributes to it.

III) What Are We Going To Do?

It is easy to divide. It is easier to take a clock apart, than to put it back together so it will operate effectively. It is easier to disassemble something, than put it back together. It is easier to tear down, than it is to build up. I have noticed with little Max how easy it is to be destructive than constructive. It is true with all little children. They have to be taught to put things back when through with them...don’t leave a mess others have to clean up.

So what are we going to do to avoid being guilty of this terribly disgusting sin...

1. Stop it early - Prov. 17:14

2. Heed the implorings of the Lord - Phil. 4:2...notice how Paul pleads with each one separately...I implore Eudodia...I implore Syntyche...each has to be willing to do what he or she can to get along. Each needs to heed the pleadings of the Lord.

Speaking of contentions, some Christians confuse contending for the faith (Jude 3) something Christians are to do...with being contentious in doing so...something they definitely are NOT to do. They are not the same.

You might be thinking...we don’t have a problem with this here...we are blessed with unity and joyous togetherness as a family...so why choose this as a sermon topic? Answer: An ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure. The admonition will always more easily be received while it is no problem and emotions do not cloud the mind’s rationale.

I) Why Is It So Disgusting?...so revolting...such a detestable thing?

1. God Said So!!! - That should be a good enough reason. But, why does He find it so disgusting? Okay, okay...so it is a sin, but does He have to call it a repulsive thing? Why?

2. God is a God of Peace - In I Cor. 14:33 - God is said to not be a God of confusion, but of peace. When we work counter to that, creating disharmony between people...we then are going against the very nature of God. Just as an earthly father can tolerate some things better than others in the disobedience of his children, so maybe it is with God.
9. It is Joined to Transgression and Destruction - Prov. 17:19...that is not good company.

10. It is Often Linked to Envy - Romans 13:13; I Cor. 3:3; Phil 1:15....people sow discord because they are insecure or paranoid about what others have or are and want to bring them down to better secure themselves.

II) How Is Discord Done?

1. Whispering and gossiping...Proverbs 16:28; 17:9...Those who talk behind people’s backs...speak quietly what they would not wish to be stated openly...are sowing discord.

2. Debating some religious topics gender strife...and do not build up. - I Tim. 6:4; II Tim. 2:23. The one sowing discord needs to cut it out...and if he won't the others are told to avoid him.

3. Some preach out of strife - Phil 1:15...build up...I Tim. 6:4; II Tim. 2:23. Those who take behalf of people’s books...speak quickly what they would not wish to be stated openly...are sowing discord.

4. Through scoffing or belittling others and their ideas - Prov. 16:28...contentiousness does not spring forth from sound rational use of the mind. First, Proverbs 16:28...contentiousness does not spring forth from sound rational use of the mind.

5. It Takes Away From Good Outreach - Because of all the in-fighting, so much wasted energy is being used in warring with saints...when there are sinners out there dying everyday without Christ. But, NOOO, we are too busy nitpicking with one another.

6. It Is Prideful - Prov. 13:10; 28:25...the one who causes division among brethren is prideful...the one who causes division among brethren...the one who causes division among brethren.

7. It Often Arises Out of Anger - Prov. 15:18; 29:22; 30:33...somewhere within the discord sower there are some anger issues...and this is just the way it shows itself. And the wrath of man does not work the righteousness of God (James 1).

8. It Is Twisted, Perverted Behavior - I didn't say it first...Proverbs 16:28...contentiousness does not spring forth from sound rational use of the mind.

9. It Is Not Loving - You do not really care about others if you cause strife between brethren. It is a fool who separates friends, and the one who causes discord.

10. It Is Huge On Unifying - Within hours of the cross, Jesus was praying that all believers be ONE, as the Godhead is one...we are in a sense...fighting against God and His prayer and efforts.

11. II Is NOT Loving - You do not really care about others if you cause strife between brethren.