

# “Church Splits”

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According to author Gene Edwards (*“Preventing a Church Split”*) there are 15,000 church splits per year in American churches, which represent about five percent of the total number of Protestant churches.

Churches are usually not left in a stronger position after they have split. How can a church be a fraction of its original size and be a stronger church?

What kind of thing would cause a church split?

- A wayward pastor
- A renegade board member
- A church gossip
- A person aspiring to leadership in an illegitimate manner
- An unbiblical practice of church discipline procedures
- Music
- Building programs
- Improper handling of finances from the pastor or board members
- Prayer groups which become gossip groups

...And there are many other things which can cause a split in a church.

The church is usually split before it actually physically fractures.

What to do if you see a split developing...

- 1) Identify the source of the conflict. Is it an issue or a person or persons?
- 2) If there are persons involved go to the ringleaders. Seek to make peace under all circumstances within reason. Be reasonable in a spirit of compromise as there are many issues not worth fighting and splitting over.
- 3) If a spirit of peace cannot be obtained with an individual and his/her followers, and they are determined to divide the church, do not allow the division to gain momentum! Force the split early, cut your losses and get back to the remaining fold.
- 4) Confront those heretics (divisive personalities) early, and after the second conflict (admonition), dismiss them. -Titus 3:10
- 5) Pastor-shepherds, stand on guard over your flocks! Do not let the grievous wolves devour the sheep! Acts 20:27-32



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