

Title: "Pushing Back Against Polarization and Division"

September 1, 2025

Greetings all,

Just a quick note to let you know about a new essay sharing my thoughts regarding the sources of the toxic, dangerous polarization and division that is spreading like cancer across the world and especially throughout the United States, and sharing my thoughts about how to push back against it.

Title: "Pushing Back Against Polarization and Division"

Link: <https://www.immanuelapproach.com/special-subjectsadvanced-topics/>

I have included the first page and outline, below, as an appetizer.

Blessings,

Dr. Lehman/Karl

Want to support the Lehman's Immanuel Approach work? Click here for more information:

<https://www.immanuelapproach.com/supporting-lehmans-immanuel-approach-work/>

Pushing Back Against Polarization and Division

I. Introduction: As I'm sure you are already aware, polarization and division have been growing within the United States and also across the globe. There is polarization and division between countries, between political parties within countries, within communities, between family members, between people who have been friends and colleagues for many years, and even between brothers and sisters in Christ in all of these categories. We are not just struggling with disagreement about big issues (like abortion, racism, LGBTQ related questions/issues, immigration, environmental protection, how to balance the budget, the war in Ukraine, the Israel/Palestine conflict, separation of church and state, etc) – we are sliding into a level of polarization and division that is becoming increasingly destructive, painful, and dangerous. We no longer see the people on the other side of these issues as good citizens who just disagree with us through ignorance or misunderstanding, or even good citizens who disagree with us because they have been deceived, but rather (increasingly) as enemies, who are lazy, careless, immature, selfish, greedy, cruel, and even willfully, consciously evil.

I know that in my own experience, I have never before struggled so intensely with fear and anger around these issues of conflict. I have never before struggled so intensely with sliding into non-relational enemy mode when I think about these issues, and with judging people who hold opposing positions regarding these difficult questions. I have even found myself sliding into non-relational enemy mode to the point that I don't want to see or talk to brothers and sisters in Christ who have been friends and colleagues for many years.

Years ago I read a description of a prophetic vision regarding the enemy's end-times strategy against the Church. One of the most important points of this vision was that the primary strategy of the enemy was

to cause division on every possible level of relationship, to the point that there would be so much division, even between Christians, that the Church would be completely disabled.¹ When I see the division and polarization that are growing like cancer in our society, I can't help thinking of this sobering prophetic vision.

I believe that the Lord is especially calling Christians to deliberately, intensely push back against this polarization and division that is destroying the fabric of our families, friendships, local churches, ministries, communities, countries, and the global Church.

II. Disintegration into enemy mode

III. Triggering

IV. Deliberately stirring up fear and anger

V. Leaders/influencers on both sides who are *not* operating in good faith

VI. Enemy-mode, biased, diagonal arguments

VII. Only hearing one side of the story

- A. Biased information technology**
- B. Biased (even knowingly dishonest) news outlets**
- C. Brain science -- system 1 and system 2**
- D. Brain science – what you see is all there is (WYSIATI)**
- E. Hugely disproportional resources when we only listen to one side**
- F. Courtroom analogy**

VIII. Practical tips for listening to the other side of the argument

IX. Summary of interventions

X. Conclusion/summary

¹ Rick Joyner, *The Final Quest* (New Kensington, PA: Whitaker House, 1996), page 17.