



Key passage: Luke 11:17, Mark 12:38-40

Main Point: Don't divide your life, live it completely for God.

Introduction [Get people interested and present the topic.]

This morning, I want to talk about a concept that affects every single one of us—whether we realize it or not. Let's start with a symbol. [Show the Yin-Yang symbol.] Who knows what this represents?

In Chinese philosophy, the Yin-Yang, or Taijitu, represents the balance of two opposing forces—one dark, passive, cold, and feminine (Yin), and the other bright, active, warm, and masculine (Yang). The idea is that these forces work together, coexisting within everything.

Now, here's the question: Is this how we live our Christian lives? Do we have two different forces, two different people, inside us? Are we one person in church and another everywhere else?

Point 1: The Problem of Being Divided [Explain the problem.]

There's a term for this in philosophy; it's called Dualism. Dualism is the belief that two opposing forces exist within one entity—light and dark, good and evil, sacred and secular.

For many Christians, this plays out in "Moral Dualism," where we live by two separate moral codes. On one side, we have our "Christian life," where we say the right things, act the right way, and follow God's commands. But on the other side, we have our "real life," where we do whatever we want, separate from our faith.

This isn't just a personal struggle; it's a trend in our culture. Over the past 15 years, our society has increasingly tried to separate the sacred from the secular.

- The government, schools, and workplaces have pushed religion and morality into the private sphere, saying faith is a personal choice.

- Meanwhile, facts, science, and logic are considered public truth—things that are binding on everyone.
- We see it in the removal of prayer from schools, the removal of the Ten Commandments from government buildings, and the idea that education should be "value-free"—as if anything can truly be free of values.

And what happens? This cultural mindset creeps into our personal lives. We start to compartmentalize our faith.

It's kind of like when someone goes on a diet. You know how it goes—you start strong, eating salads, drinking water, counting calories. But then, one night, you're sitting on the couch watching TV, and the fridge starts calling your name. Before you know it, you're standing in the kitchen, eating ice cream straight from the tub with a serving spoon.

We do the same thing with our faith. We "diet" in public—saying the right things at church—but privately, we indulge in whatever feels good.

And here's the problem: That's not how Christianity works.

Point 2: The Bible Warns Against Divided Living [\[What the Bible has to say.\]](#)

Jesus spoke directly about this issue, warning against divided living—living in a way that brings internal conflict and disharmony, whether within our personal lives, communities, or the broader church.

Luke 11:17 – A Kingdom Divided Cannot Stand

In **Luke 11:17**, Jesus says: *"Any kingdom divided against itself will be ruined, and a house divided against itself will fall."* [NIV]

This statement comes shortly after a significant event. Jesus had just cast out a demon from a man who was mute. The crowd was amazed at the miracle, but instead of recognizing the work of God, the religious leaders, the Pharisees, accused Jesus of using the power of Satan, saying He cast out demons by Beelzebul, someone they thought was the prince of demons. Jesus responded with wisdom, pointing out the absurdity of their

accusation. He said, *"Any kingdom divided against itself will be ruined, and a house divided against itself will fall."* Jesus illustrated a fundamental truth: for anything to thrive, it must have unity. A kingdom or a house in conflict with itself cannot survive; it will be torn apart.

When we apply this truth, it's clear that division weakens everything it touches. A family divided by constant arguments or unforgiveness will struggle to stay united. A church divided by infighting and disunity will struggle to fulfill its mission. A nation divided by deep divisions will be torn apart. And most critically, our spiritual lives—if divided between allegiance to God and the pull of sin—will not stand. Jesus taught that the path to growth and success, in any context, demands unity.

In the **Gospel of Luke**, this statement serves as part of a larger section where Jesus taught about His authority and mission. It's also a warning to His opponents: they cannot continue to attack Him without tearing down their own credibility. When we live with divided priorities—between God and the world, between our faith and our desires—it's like we're trying to build a house on a cracked foundation. Eventually, the weight of life's pressures will bring it down.

Mark 12:38-40 – Religious Hypocrisy

Jesus talked about this topic again in **Mark 12:38-40**, Jesus gave a stern warning: *"Watch out for the teachers of the law. They like to walk around in flowing robes and be greeted in the marketplaces, and have the most important seats in the synagogues and the places of honor at banquets. They devour widows' houses and for a show make lengthy prayers. Such men will be punished most severely."* [NIV]

In this passage, Jesus condemned the religious hypocrisy of the teachers of the law. On the outside, they presented themselves as righteous, devout men, wearing elaborate robes and enjoying the esteem of the people. They sought honor and recognition in the public eye, but their actions told a very different story. Instead of leading with compassion and care, especially for the vulnerable, they exploited widows, taking advantage of their situation

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