

# A DEADLY DIGRESSION

**Community** → **Complacent** → **Critical** → **Cancerous**

*May the God who gives endurance and encouragement give you a spirit of unity among yourselves as you follow Christ Jesus, so that with one heart and mouth you may glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ.*  
— Romans 15:5-6

*Let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds. Let us not give up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but let us encourage one another — and all the more as you see the Day approaching.*  
— Hebrews 10:24-25

## CHARACTERISTICS

- ▶ Devoted
- ▶ Perspective: Excited
- ▶ Focus: What's right
- ▶ Involved in ministry
- ▶ Result: Connected

*Never be lacking in zeal, but keep your spiritual fervor, serving the Lord.*  
— Romans 12:11

*You have forsaken your first love. Remember the height from which you have fallen! Repent and do the things you did at first. . .*  
— Revelation 2:4-5

*I know your deeds; you have a reputation of being alive, but you are dead. Wake up! Strengthen what remains and is about to die, for I have not found your deeds complete in the sight of my God.”*  
— Revelation 3:1-2

## CHARACTERISTICS

- ▶ Distant
- ▶ Perspective: Indifferent
- ▶ Focus: What's easy
- ▶ Involved in activity
- ▶ Result: Detached

*Do not let any unwholesome talk come out of your mouths, but only what is helpful for building others up according to their needs, that it may benefit those who listen.*  
— Ephesians 4:29

*See to it that no one misses the grace of God and that no bitter root grows up to cause trouble and defile many.*  
— Hebrews 12:15

*Do everything without complaining or arguing.*  
— Philippians 2:14

## CHARACTERISTICS

- ▶ Discontented
- ▶ Perspective: Negative
- ▶ Focus: What's wrong
- ▶ Involved in murmuring
- ▶ Result: Withdrawal

*Warn a divisive person once, and then warn him a second time. After that, have nothing to do with him. You may be sure that such a man is warped and sinful; he is self-condemned.*  
— Titus 3:10-11

*I urge you, brothers, to watch out for those who cause divisions and put obstacles in your way that are contrary to the teaching you have learned. Keep away from them.*  
— Romans 16:17

## CHARACTERISTICS

- ▶ Disagreeable
- ▶ Perspective: Divisive
- ▶ Focus: Who's right
- ▶ Involved in dissension
- ▶ Result: Factions