

## Kelly and Ryan

At 9 AM (Eastern time), the “Live with Kelly and Ryan” show comes on the television. The fun-loving co-hosts create a relaxed atmosphere on the set, coffee cup in hand, joking with each other about everything from family to personal quirks. They seem like the epitome of two people, comfortable “in their own skin,” and who enjoy working with each other. Their friendly bantering is fun to watch. What could be better?

Our culture seems to thrive on division. There are people who can't be content with something good, so they try to question the genuineness of something good. They post Facebook questions or comments to stir up division, even with the most harmonious of relationships. Questions like, “Does Kelly really like Ryan?” or “Ryan’s fans call out ‘annoying’ Kelly Ripa for being ‘rude’ on live television,” saying she constantly interrupts him.



Bible verses provide examples of division within the early church that can be applied to our world today. Division within the church at Corinth threatened the Lord’s work in establishing a church to lead people to a relationship with God. Thankfully, there were no social media at the time, as they would have had a field day. Paul dealt with that division in his letters to the church at Corinth. *I appeal to you, brothers, by the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that all of you agree, and that there be no divisions among you, but that you be united in the same mind and the same judgment (1Corinthians 1:10).*

We see division in everyday life today. It is on the news, in our community, and on social media. As we near the end of the political campaign season, the ads seem to be more about criticizing an opponent than a candidate’s own qualifications and solutions to community problems. To remain neutral, TV stations tend to run ads for opposing candidates consecutively. The result is the viewers could be frustrated that neither candidate seems worthy of their vote.

The devil is at work, trying to divide us and turn us against each other. We end up feeling helpless. It may even cause people to drift away from the Lord. That’s what the devil wants – for us to feel hopeless with no answer. Yet, Jesus and His teachings are the answer. He teaches us to love each other and how to resolve our differences. *“Therefore, welcome one another as Christ has welcomed you, for the glory of God (Romans 15:7).* Another verse provides a different perspective: *Judge not, and you will not be judged; condemn not, and you will not be condemned; forgive, and you will be forgiven.” (Luke 6:37).* Instead of tearing someone down, build them up. (1 Thessalonians 5:11).

Ryan and Kelly have a relationship that extends beyond the TV set. “We do a television show, but it is not just a television show. We come in, and we literally have our first cup of coffee together and catch up with each other as friends do, and that’s the dynamic we hope we have with people who are watching as well.” Ryan Seacrest also said, “Kelly and I have been friends for two decades, so we knew each other way before – long before we were on the air together.”

Let us embrace others, respect their uniqueness, and appreciate their qualities. Resist the urge to take sides on issues that don’t involve or affect you. Ignore baseless claims. Don’t let anyone drive a wedge between you and others. When appropriate, become a peacemaker. Share God’s love with others.

**It is Written:** *Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God. (Matthew 5:9)*

Other verses to study: 1 Peter 3:11, Romans 12:18, 1 Thessalonians 5:11.

**Question:** How do you resist the urge to take sides on divisive issues? How can you bring peace to a situation?

**Prayer:** Heavenly Father. Our culture seeks to create walls between people instead of reconciling differences. Please help us to bring peace and harmony to our world. Amen.