

Envy and Strife

One of the things we need to do our best to keep out of our lives and home is envy and strife. These two the most dangerous of all and they are the doorway of evil in our lives and relationships.

- A. Romans 6:16 says *“Know ye not, that to whom ye yield yourselves servants to obey, his servants ye are to whom ye obey; whether of sin unto death, or of obedience unto righteousness?”*
- a) One thing that must be understood about sin, in general, is that it opens a door to the enemy to come in to steal, kill, and destroy.
 - b) We need to ensure that we are not allowing sin to reign in our bodies because we are yielding ourselves to the author of that sin—Satan.
 - c) On the other hand, when we yield to God, we allow the life of God to flow in our lives hence abundant life and peace.
- B. James 3:16 *For where envying and strife is, there is confusion and every evil work.*
- a) Envy and strife open a door to **every** evil work.
 - b) Not giving, lying, and so forth are all bad, but the Word does not say that where lying is there is every evil work.
 - i) We won't benefit from operating in faith while entertaining envy, strife, and confusion.

- ii) Our prayers can be hindered when we operate in strife and envy.
 - c) Envy and strife are doorways to demonic activity in our lives. We won't go far nor prosper with envy and strife. We need to close the door to these evils.
 - d) Notice that where we have envying and strife, there is confusion. God is not the author of confusion, but Satan.
- C. Proverbs 14:30 *A sound heart is the life of the flesh: but envy the rottenness of the bones.*
- a) A sound heart is a merry heart (Proverbs 17:22). Where there is a merry heart, there is no envy which causes diseases.
 - b) Envy (jealousy) is not healthy for us. It will cause diseases in the bones. One thing is also certain that where there is envy (jealousy), there is strife eventually.
- D. Proverbs 15:18 *A wrathful man stirreth up strife: but he that is slow to anger appeaseth strife.*
- a) One of the reasons strife is stirred up is because one is angry, yet not just angry but soon angry.
 - b) Pride (Proverbs 13:10) is the reason for this anger which later leads to strife.
- E. Proverbs 27:4 *Wrath is cruel, and anger is outrageous; but who is able to stand before envy?*
- a) This verse shows that envy (Jealousy) is worse than wrath and anger. This is not saying that we should tolerate anger or wrath.
- F. Romans 13:13 *Let us walk honestly, as in the day; not in rioting and drunkenness, not in chambering and wantonness, not in strife and envying.*

- a) We are encouraged as believers not to walk in strife and envying. One of the reasons for that is because it affects our testimony from the Lord. If we walk in envy and strife, we are not walking honestly.
 - b) Not to mention, it also opens a door to confusion and every evil work.
- G. 1 Corinthians 3:3 *For ye are yet carnal: for whereas there is among you envying, and strife, and divisions, are ye not carnal, and walk as men?*
- a) This verse makes it clear that one of the main reasons for envying and strife and divisions is because believers are carnal. They are not spiritual or walking spiritually.
- H. Philippians 2:3 *Let nothing be done through strife or vainglory; but in lowliness of mind let each esteem other better than themselves.*
- a) If anything is to be done, let it not be done in strife or pride but in humility. This shows that strife and pride have a lot in common. When there is strife, there is pride.
 - b) Pride causes us not to esteem the other above and better than ourselves, hence leading to strife. If we esteem others better than ourselves, we are walking in humility the antithesis to strife and pride.