
^[19] *Now the deeds of the flesh are evident, which are: immorality, impurity, sensuality,*
^[20] *idolatry, sorcery, enmities, STRIFE, jealousy, outbursts of anger, disputes, dissensions,*
factions, ^[21] envying, drunkenness, carousing, and things like these, of which I forewarn you just
as I have forewarned you that those who practice such things will not inherit the kingdom of God.
[Galatians 5:19-21]

I began Today's Thought with Galatians 5:19-21 to remind you of the seriousness of being at STRIFE with others. Remember, as Galatians 5:21 teaches you, as is the case with all the "deeds of the flesh", if you are at STRIFE with others, then you "WILL NOT inherit the kingdom of God"!

Today we will consider seven causes of STRIFE in people's lives. We will explore these in alphabetical order. So let us begin with ANGER as a *CAUSE* of STRIFE. Listen to Proverbs 29:22 which says,
An angry man STIRS UP STRIFE, and a hot-tempered man abounds in transgression.

The second cause of STRIFE is ARROGANCE! Proverbs 28:25 simply says,
An ARROGANT man stirs up STRIFE, but the one who trusts in the Lord will prosper.

The third cause of STRIFE is related to the first, *anger*. This third cause is a CONTENTIOUS SPIRIT! This cause of STRIFE is found in Proverbs 26:21 which says,
Like charcoal to hot embers and wood to fire,
so is a CONTENTIOUS man to KINDLE STRIFE.

Now back up one verse and learn from Proverbs 23:20 what quiets *CONTENTION* and STRIFE.
For lack of wood the fire goes out, and where there is no whisperer, contention quiets down.

Did you see it? Did you see what quiets *CONTENTION* and therefore also quiets STRIFE? It is when "*there is no whisperer*"; that is no tale bearer, no gossip.

The fourth way STRIFE is caused is through the asking of FOOLISH QUESTIONS! Listen to 1 Timothy 6:3-5 where you learn that,

^[3] *If anyone advocates a different doctrine, and does not agree with sound words, those of our Lord Jesus Christ, and with the doctrine conforming to godliness, ^[4] they are conceited and understand nothing; but they have a morbid interest in CONTROVERSIAL QUESTIONS and DISPUTES about words, OUT OF WHICH ARISE envy, STRIFE, abusive language, evil suspicions, ^[5] and constant friction between men of depraved mind and deprived of the truth....*

The Holy Spirit also moved James to address this in James 3:14-16 where you are taught,
^[14] *... if you have bitter jealousy and selfish ambition in your heart, do not be arrogant and so lie against the truth. ^[15] This wisdom is not that which comes down from above, but is earthly, natural, demonic. ^[16] For where jealousy and selfish ambition exist, there is disorder and every evil thing.*

Then in James 3:17-18 you see in contrast that,
^[17] *... the wisdom from above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, reasonable, full of mercy and good fruits, unwavering, without hypocrisy. ^[18] And the seed whose fruit is righteousness is sown in peace by those who make peace.*

HATRED is the fifth cause of STRIFE! Please consider this in its context in Proverbs 10:11-14 where you learn that,

^[11] *The mouth of the righteous is a fountain of life, but the mouth of the wicked conceals violence.* ^[12] HATRED STIRS UP STRIFE, but love covers all transgressions. ^[13] *On the lips of the discerning, wisdom is found, but a rod is for the back of the one who lacks understanding.*

^[14] *Wise men store up knowledge, but with the mouth of the foolish, ruin is at hand.*

The sixth cause of STRIFE is PRESUMPTION! You learn this from Proverbs 13:9-10 where you read,

^[9] *The light of the righteous rejoices, but the lamp of the wicked goes out.* ^[10] *Through*

PRESUMPTION comes nothing but STRIFE, but with those who receive counsel is wisdom.

The seventh and last cause of STRIFE is SCOFFING! You find this in Proverbs 22:10 where you read,

Drive out the SCOFFER, and contention will go out, Even STRIFE and dishonor will CEASE.

To SCOFF is to ‘mock’, or ‘deride’ someone. Is it any wonder then that if the SCOFFER is driven out that STRIFE will *CEASE*!

Will you now please join with me in prayer?

O Father God, the God Who teaches us through the Words You breathed into Your Scriptures. I bring to You today a sacrifice of thanksgiving that You have clearly revealed to us these seven causes of striving against others. Teach us Father in Your wisdom that we may not strive against others. Help us through the mirror of Your Word to see those causes of strife in ourselves that we may repent. Teach us to walk in the fruit of Your Spirit which is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control. I ask You to accept this prayer of thanksgiving through the authority which is in the name of my Lord Jesus. Amen!

Please meditate and pray on these things!

Louise and I pray this will help to both enlighten and encourage you to **know in a greater way** the **One** Who promises in His Word to never leave you nor forsake you [Hebrews 13:5; Deuteronomy 31:6,8]!

*BECAUSE HE HAS TAUGHT ME SEVEN CAUSES OF STRIFE,
I ENDEAVOR TO REMOVE THEM FROM MY LIFE! – tom!*