

## Division

Romans 1:29-31 Being filled with all unrighteousness, fornication, wickedness, covetousness, maliciousness; full of envy, murder, **debate**<sup>2054</sup>, deceit, malignity; **whisperers**<sup>5588</sup>, 30 **Backbiters**<sup>2637</sup>, haters of God, spiteful, proud, boasters, inventors of evil things, disobedient to parents, 31 Without understanding, covenantbreakers, without natural affection, implacable, unmerciful:

Romans 13:13 Let us walk honestly, as in the day; not in rioting and drunkenness, not in chambering and wantonness, not in **strife**<sup>2054</sup> and envying.

2Corinthians 12:20 For I fear, lest, when I come, I shall not find you such as I would, and *that* I shall be found unto you such as ye would not: lest *there be debates*<sup>2054</sup>, envyings, wraths, **strifes**<sup>2052</sup>, **backbitings**<sup>2636</sup>, **whisperings**<sup>5587</sup>, swellings, **tumults**<sup>181</sup>:

Galatians 5:19-21 Now the works of the flesh are manifest, which are *these*; Adultery, fornication, uncleanness, lasciviousness, 20 Idolatry, witchcraft, hatred, **variance**<sup>2054</sup>, emulations, wrath, **strife**<sup>2052</sup>, **seditions**<sup>1370</sup>, heresies, 21 Envyings, murders, drunkenness, revellings, and such like: of the which I tell you before, as I have also told *you* in time past, that they which do such things shall not inherit the kingdom of God.

2 Timothy 3:2-5 For men shall be lovers of their own selves, covetous, boasters, proud, blasphemers, disobedient to parents, unthankful, unholy, 3 Without natural affection, trucebreakers, **false accusers**<sup>1228</sup>, incontinent, fierce, despisers of those that are good, 4 Traitors, heady, highminded, lovers of pleasures more than lovers of God; 5 Having a form of godliness, but denying the power thereof: from such turn away.

1 Peter 2:1-3 Wherefore laying aside all malice, and all guile, and hypocrisies, and envies, and all **evil speakings**<sup>2636</sup>, As newborn babes, desire the sincere milk of the word, that ye may grow thereby: If so be ye have tasted that the Lord is gracious.

## *Unity*

Philippians 1:27 Only let your conversation be as it becometh the gospel of Christ: that whether I come and see you, or else be absent, I may hear of your affairs, that ye stand fast in one spirit, with one mind striving together for the faith of the gospel; (KJV)

Hebrews 10:24 And let us consider one another to provoke unto love and to good works: (KJV)

## *Peace*

For the kingdom of God is not meat and drink; but righteousness, and **peace**, and joy in the Holy Ghost. For he that in these things serveth Christ [is] acceptable to God, and approved of men. Let us therefore follow after the things which make for **peace**, and things wherewith one may edify another. (Ro 14:17-19 KJV)

But the wisdom that is from above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, [and] easy to be intreated, full of mercy and good fruits, without partiality, and without hypocrisy. And the fruit of righteousness is sown in peace of them that make **peace**. (Jas 3:17-18 KJV)

## *Edification*

Prov 27:17  
17 Iron sharpens iron,  
So one man sharpens another. (NASU)

When iron is rubbed against another piece of iron it shapes and sharpens it. Similarly people can help each other improve by their discussions, criticisms, suggestions, and ideas. On the influence of companions, whether good or bad, on one's life see 13:20; 22:24-25.

Let us therefore follow after the things which make for peace, and things wherewith one may edify another. (Ro 14:19 KJV)

Prov 25:20  
20 Like one who takes off a garment on a cold day, or like vinegar on soda,  
Is he who sings songs to a troubled heart. (NASU)

How does this affect my faith? How does this affect my congregation? How does this affect my future?

- First, we need one another. Second, the more you promote peace the more you are like God. Third, the more you are able to edify, the more built up you are.

- Promoting things that God wants for us will always help His people be all they can be in him.

- If you never learn how to bring unity, you will never be a good leader or a good follower (in your workplace or other group commitments). If you never work toward peace, it limits your influence with others (in your workplace or relationships). If you never build up anyone, you are either immature or selfish.

## *Causes of Strife - The result of division.*

Division comes from the inability to see people that are different from us as one of us. In the grand scheme of things, we are all the same.

Romans 3:10-12 As it is written, There is none righteous, no, not one:  
There is none that understandeth, there is none that seeketh after God.  
They are all gone out of the way, they are together become unprofitable;  
there is none that doeth good, no, not one. (KJV)

Romans 3:23 For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God;  
(KJV)

Prov 13:10 Through insolence comes nothing but strife,  
But wisdom is with those who receive counsel. (NASU)

### *1.) Anger*

Ephesians 4:26 Be ye angry, and sin not: let not the sun go down upon your  
wrath: (KJV)

Prov 29:22 An angry man stirs up strife,  
And a hot-tempered man abounds in transgression. (NASU)

### *2.) Arrogance*

Prov 28:25 An arrogant man stirs up strife,  
But he who trusts in the LORD will prosper. (NASU)

### *3) Evil Speaking*

Prov 26:20 For lack of wood the fire goes out,  
And where there is no whisperer, contention quiets down. (NASU)

### *4) Selfish Ambition*

Prov 27:2  
2 Let another praise you, and not your own mouth;  
A stranger, and not your own lips. (NASU)

2 Samuel 14:25 But in all Israel there was none to be so much praised as Absalom  
for his beauty: from the sole of his foot even to the crown of his head there was  
no blemish in him.

2 Samuel 15:2-6 And Absalom rose up early, and stood beside the way of the  
gate: and it was so, that when any man that had a controversy came to the king  
for judgment, then Absalom called unto him, and said, Of what city art thou?

And he said, Thy servant is of one of the tribes of Israel. And Absalom said unto him, See, thy matters are good and right; but there is no man deputed of the king to hear thee. Absalom said moreover, Oh that I were made judge in the land, that every man which hath any suit or cause might come unto me, and I would do him justice! And it was so, that when any man came nigh to him to do him obeisance, he put forth his hand, and took him, and kissed him. And on this manner did Absalom to all Israel that came to the king for judgment: so Absalom stole the hearts of the men of Israel.

Prov 27:21

21 The crucible is for silver and the furnace for gold,  
And each is tested by the praise accorded him. (NASU)

### 5.) *Opinions*

1 Corinthians 1:12-13 Now this I say, that every one of you saith, I am of Paul; and I of Apollos; and I of Cephas; and I of Christ. Is Christ divided? was Paul crucified for you? or were ye baptized in the name of Paul? (KJV)

1 Corinthians 3:4-5 For while one saith, I am of Paul; and another, I am of Apollos; are ye not carnal? Who then is Paul, and who is Apollos, but ministers by whom ye believed, even as the Lord gave to every man? (KJV)

### Types of Division:

#### 1.) *Social Class*

James 2:2-4 For if there come unto your assembly a man with a gold ring, in goodly apparel, and there come in also a poor man in vile raiment; And ye have respect to him that weareth the gay clothing, and say unto him, Sit thou here in a good place; and say to the poor, Stand thou there, or sit here under my footstool: **Are ye not then partial in yourselves**, and are become judges of evil thoughts? (KJV)

#### 2.) *Culture*

Colossians 3:9-11 Lie not one to another, seeing that ye have put off the old man with his deeds; And have put on the new man, which is renewed in knowledge after the image of him that created him: Where there is neither Greek nor Jew, circumcision nor uncircumcision, **Barbarian, Scythian**, bond nor free: but Christ is all, and in all. (KJV)

#### 3.) *Ethnicity*

1 Corinthians 12:13 For by one Spirit are we all baptized into one body, whether we be **Jews or Gentiles**, whether we be bond or free; and have been all made to drink into one Spirit. (KJV)

#### *4.) Age*

Prov 20:20 He who curses his father or his mother,  
His lamp will go out in time of darkness. (NASU)

How does this affect my faith? How does this affect my congregation? How does this affect my future?

## Appendix A

### *Confusion 181*

tumults: (KJV)

181 akatastasia {ak-at-as-tah-see'-ah}

from 182; TDNT - 3:446,387; n f

AV - confusion 2, tumult 2, commotion 1; 5

1) instability, a state of disorder, disturbance, confusion

CONFOUND, CONFUSE, CONFUSION

1. akatastasia NT:181, "instability," (a, negative, kata, "down," stasis, "a standing"), denotes "a state of disorder, disturbance, confusion, tumult," 1 Cor 14:33; James 3:16, "revolution or anarchy"; translated "tumults" in Luke 21:9 (KJV, "commotions"); 2 Cor 6:5; 12:20. See TUMULT.

Gossiper

Prov 26:22

22 The words of a whisperer are like dainty morsels,  
And they go down into the innermost parts of the body. (NASU)

### *Slanderers 1228*

false accusers, (KJV) slanderers (NKJV)

1228 diabolos " {dee-ab'-ol-os}

from 1225; TDNT - 2:72,150; adj

AV - devil 35, false accuser 2, slanderer 1; 38

1) prone to slander, slanderous, accusing falsely 1a) a calumniator, false accuser, slanderer, 2) metaph. applied to a man who, by opposing the cause of God, may be said to act the part of the devil or to side with him

Satan the prince of the demons, the author of evil, persecuting good men, estranging mankind from God and enticing them to sin, afflicting them with diseases by means of demons who take possession of their bodies at his bidding.

SLANDERER

diabolos NT:1228, an adjective, "slanderous, accusing falsely," is used as a noun, translated "slanderers" in 1 Tim 3:11, where the reference is to those who are given to finding fault with the demeanor and conduct of others and spreading their innuendos and criticisms in the church; in 2 Tim 3:3, RV (KJV, "false accusers"); Titus 2:3 (ditto): see ACCUSER, DEVIL.

## Contention

Prov 26:20 For lack of wood the fire goes out,  
And where there is no whisperer, contention quiets down. (NASU)

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## *Division 1370*

seditions,

1370 dicostasia {dee-khos-tas-ee'-ah}

from a derivative of 1364 and 4714; TDNT - 1:514,88; n f

AV - division 2, sedition 1; 3

1) dissension, division

## SEDITION

2. dichostasia NT:1370, lit., "a standing apart" (dicha, "asunder, apart," stasis, "a standing"), hence "a dissension, division," is translated "seditions" in Gal 5:20, KJV. See DIVISION, No. 2.

## DIVISION

2. dichostasia NT:1307, lit., "a standing apart" (diche, "asunder, apart," stasis, "a standing", the root di-- indicating "division," is found in many words in various languages), is used in Rom 16:17, where believers are enjoined to mark those who cause "division" and to turn away from them; and in Gal 5:20, RV (KJV, "seditions"), where "divisions" are spoken of as "works of the flesh." Some mss. have this noun in 1 Cor 3:3.

## *Self-ambitions 2052*

strifes, (KJV) self-ambitions (NKJV)

2052 erigeia {er-ith-i'-ah}

perhaps as the same as 2042; TDNT - 2:660,256; n f

AV - strife 5, contention 1, contentious + 1537 1; 7

1) electioneering or intriguing for office 1a) apparently, in the NT a courting distinction, a desire to put one's self forward, a partisan and fractious spirit which does not disdain low arts 1b) partisanship, fractiousness ++++ **This word is found before NT times only in Aristotle where it denotes a self-seeking pursuit of political office by unfair means. (A&G) Paul exhorts to be one in the mind of Christ not putting self forward or being selfish (Phil 2:3). James 3:14**

**speaks against having selfishness or self-promoting in your heart. Wayne Steury**

## FACTION, FACTIOUS

erithia (or-- eia) NT:2052 denotes "ambition, self-seeking, rivalry," self-will being an underlying idea in the word; hence it denotes "party-making." It is derived, not from eris, "strife," but from erithos, "a hireling"; hence the meaning of "seeking to win followers," "factions," so rendered in the RV of 2 Cor 12:20, KJV, "strifes"; not improbably the meaning here is rivalries, or base ambitions (all the other words in the list express abstract ideas rather than factions); Gal 5:20 (ditto); Phil 1:17 (RV; KJV, v. 16, "contention"); 2:3 (KJV, "strife"); James 3:14,16 (ditto); in Rom 2:8 it is translated as an adjective, "factious" (KJV, "contentious"). The order "strife, jealousy, wrath, faction," is the same in 2 Cor 12:20 and Gal 5:20. "Faction" is the fruit of jealousy. Cf. the synonymous adjective hairetikos, Titus 3:10, causing division (marg., "factious"), not necessarily "heretical," in the sense of holding false doctrine.

### ***Contention 2054***

debate, (KJV) strife (NKJV)

2054 eri " {er'-is}

of uncertain affinity;; n f

AV - strife 4, debate 2, contention 2, variance 1; 9

1) contention, strife, wrangling

## STRIFE

1. eris NT:2054, "strife, contention," is the expression of "enmity," Rom 1:29, RV, "strife" (KJV, "debate"); 13:13; 1:11, "contentions" (RV and KJV); 3:3; 12:20, RV, "strife" (KJV, "debates"); Gal 5:20, RV, "strife" (KJV, "variance"); Phil 1:15; 1 Tim 6:4; Titus 3:9, RV, "strifes" (KJV, "contentions"). See CONTENTION, A, No. 1.

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## CONTENTION, CONTENTIOUS

1. eris NT:2054, "strife, quarrel, especially rivalry, contention, wrangling," as in the church in Corinth, 1 Cor 1:11, is translated "contentions in Titus 3:9, KJV. See DEBATE, STRIFE, VARIANCE.

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## VARIANCE

dichazo NT:1369, "to cut apart, divide in two," is used metaphorically in Matt 10:35, "to set at variance."

Notes: (1) In Gal 5:20, KJV, eris, "strife" (RV), is rendered "variance." (2) For adiakritos, James 3:17, RV, "without variance" (marg., "doubtfulness, or partiality"), KJV, "without partiality" (marg., "without wrangling"), see PARTIAL.

### *Evil Speaking (Backbiters) 2636/2637*

2636 katalalia {kat-al-al-ee'-ah}

from 2637; TDNT - 4:3,495; n f

AV - backbiting 1, evil speaking 1; 2

1) defamation, evil speaking

Backbiters,

2637 katalalo " {kat-al'-al-os}

from 2596 and the base of 2980; TDNT - 4:3,495; adj

AV - backbiter 1; 1

1) a defamer (a slanderer or libeler[someone who makes damaging statements about another]; detractor; calumniator[a slanderous or defamatory person]), evil speaker

BACKBITER, BACKBITING

katalalos NT:2637, a "backbiter," and katalalia NT:2636, "backbiting," are formed from kata, "against," and laleo, "to speak." Katalalos is used in Rom 1:30. Katalalia is translated "evil speaking" in 1 Peter 2:1, "backbiting" in 2 Cor 12:20.

Note: The corresponding verb katalaleo the RV translates "speak against," in its five occurrences, James 4:11 (three times); 1 Peter 2:12, and 3:16; v, "speak evil," in all the passages except 1 Peter 2:12.

1 Peter 2:12 Having your conversation honest among the Gentiles: that, whereas they speak against you as evildoers, they may by your good works, which they shall behold, glorify God in the day of visitation.

1 Peter 3:16 Having a good conscience; that, whereas they speak evil of you, as of evildoers, they may be ashamed that falsely accuse your good conversation in Christ.

James 4:11 Speak not evil one of another, brethren. He that speaketh evil of his brother, and judgeth his brother, speaketh evil of the law, and judgeth the law: but if thou judge the law, thou art not a doer of the law, but a judge.

## *Whisperings 5587/5588*

whisperers

5588 *yiquuristh*" {psith-oo-ris-tace'}

from the same as 5587;; n m

AV - whisperer 1; 1

1) a whisperer, secret slanderer, detractor (**A person that speaks evil of or belittles another**)

whisperings,

5587 *yiquurismo*" {psith-oo-ris-mos'}

from a derivative of psithos (a whisper; by implication, a slander, probably akin to 5574);; n m

AV - whispering 1; 1

1) a whispering, i.e. secret slandering 2) of the magical murmuring of a charmer of snakes

WHISPERER, WHISPERING

1. psithuristes NT:5588, "a whisperer," occurs in an evil sense in Rom 1:29.

2. psithurismos NT:5587, "a whispering," is used of "secret slander" in 2 Cor 12:20. In the Sept., Eccl 10:11, of "a murmured enchantment."

Note: Synonymous with No. 1 is katalalos, "a backbiter" Rom 1:30#, the distinction being that this denotes one guilty of open calumny, psithuristes, one who does it clandestinely.

### Contention

Prov 26:20 For lack of wood the fire goes out,

And where there is no whisperer, contention quiets down. (NASU)