

Avoiding Strife is Essential

Theme: Avoiding strife is essential to maintaining harmony, unity, staying in the Fruit of the Spirit and remaining under the covering of the Kingdom of God.

A. Why Avoiding Strife is Vital?

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| 1.a. For where envying and strife is, there is confusion and every evil work. | James 3:16 (KJV) |
| 1.b. For where jealousy and selfish ambition are, there is confusion and every evil deed. | James 3:16 (WEB) |
| 1.c. Where emulation and strife are, there is disorder and every evil thing. | James 3:16 (DBT) |
| 2.a. Cast out the scorner, and contention shall go out; yea, strife and reproach shall cease. | Prov 22:10 (KJV) |
| 2.b. Cast out the scoffer, and contention will leave; Yes, strife and reproach will cease. | Prov 22:10 (NKJV) |
| 3. Death and life are in the power of the tongue. | Prov 18:21 |
| a. Death is first. Arguments, strife and confusion are words of death. | |
| 4. I call heaven and earth to record this day against you, [that] I have set before you life and death, blessing and cursing: choose life, that both thou and thy seed may live: | Deut 30:19 |
| 5. Wisdom is the principal thing; therefore get wisdom: and with all thy getting get understanding. | Prov 4:7 |
| 6. My son, attend to my words; incline thine ear unto my sayings. | Prov 4:20 |
| 7. Let them not depart from thine eyes; keep them in the midst of thine heart. | Prov 4:21 |
| 8. For they are life unto those that find them, and health to all their flesh. | Pro 4:22 |
| 9. Keep thy heart with all diligence; for out of it are the issues of life. | Pro 4:23 |
| 10. Put away from thee a froward (i.e., habitually disobedient) mouth, and perverse lips put far from thee. Speak only words which bring grace to the hearer. | |

B. How Bad Is Strife?

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| 1. Better is a dry morsel, and quietness, than an house full of sacrifices with strife. | Pro 17:1 |
| 2.a. It is better to dwell in a corner of the housetop, than with a brawling woman in a wide house. | Prov 21:9, 25:24 |
| 2.b. It is better to dwell in a corner of the housetop [on the flat oriental roof, exposed to all kinds of weather] than in a house shared with a nagging, quarrelsome, and faultfinding woman. | Prov 21:9 (AMPC) |
| 3. It is better to dwell in the wilderness, than with a contentious and an angry woman. | Prov 21:19 |

C. How Does Strife Come?

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| 1. Only by pride cometh contention: but with the well advised is wisdom. | Prov 13:10 |
| 2. A fool's lips enter into contention, and his mouth calleth for strokes. | Prov 18:6 |
| 3. A wrathful man stirreth up strife: but [he that is] slow to anger appeaseth strife. | Prov 15:18 |

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| 4. A froward (disobedient, perverse) man soweth strife: and a whisperer separateth chief friends. | Prov 16:28 |
| 5. He that is of a proud heart stirreth up strife: but he that putteth his trust in the LORD shall be made fat. | Prov 28:25 |
| 6. An angry man stirreth up strife, and a furious man aboundeth in transgression | Prov 29:22 |

D. Summary of Definitions and Synonyms from Merriam-Webster Online Dictionary:

1. Envy = Animosity, begrudge, malice, resentful and desiring to possess or covet another's advantage
2. Jealousy = Covetous, intolerant of rivalry, resentment, zealous vigilance of a possession
3. Emulation = Ambition, endeavor to equal or excel others in achievement, envious rivalry
4. Strife = Bitter conflict, disunity, division, fight, friction or struggle, warfare
5. Confusion = Disorderly, disoriented, jumbled, mixed up
6. Disorder = Breach of peace, chaos, disarray, lack of order, lawlessness, riot, shambles
7. Evil (work) = Calamity, distress, hurtful, immorality, injury, iniquity, mischief, misfortune, morally reprehensible, sinful, suffering, sorrow, wicked
8. Contention = Argument, competition, conflict, heated disagreement, dispute, friction, rivalry
9. Scoffer = One who has contempt, disrespectful, despitefulness, disagreeable, jeers, mocks, or unpleasant
10. Scorn = One who has animosity, belittle, detest, disdain, dislike, hateful, indignation, reject or spiteful
11. Reproach = Berate, censure, disappointment, disapproval, discredit, disgrace, dishonor, scold

E. The Way to End Strife

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| 1. Where no wood is, the fire goeth out: so where there is no talebearer, the strife ceaseth. | Prov 26:20 |
| 2. As coals are to burning coals, and wood to fire; so is a contentious man to kindle strife. | Prov 26:21 |
| 3. It is an honour for a man to cease from strife: but every fool will be meddling. | Prov 20:3 |
| 4. But I say unto you, That every idle word that men shall speak, they shall give account thereof in the day of judgment. | Matt 12:36 |
| 5. For by thy words thou shalt be justified, and by thy words thou shalt be condemned. | Matt 12:37 |
| 6. O generation of vipers, how can ye, being evil, speak good things? for out of the abundance of the heart the mouth speaketh. | Matt 12:34 |
| 7. For in many things we offend all. If any man offend not in word, the same is a perfect man, [and] able also to bridle the whole body. | James 3:2 |
| 8. But the tongue can no man tame; it is an unruly evil, full of deadly poison | James 3:8 |

F. God Is Your All In All

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| 1. Only by pride cometh contention: but with the well advised is wisdom. | Prov 13:10 |
| 2. But I say unto you, That ye resist not evil: but whosoever shall smite thee on thy right cheek, turn to him the other also. | Matt 5:39 |
| 3. And if any man will sue thee at the law, and take away thy coat, let him have thy cloke also. | Matt 5:40 |
| 4. Judge not, and ye shall not be judged: condemn not, and ye shall not be condemned: forgive, and ye shall be forgiven: | Luke 6:37 |
| 5. Judge not, that ye be not judged. | Matt 7:1 |

6. For with what judgment ye judge, ye shall be judged: and with what measure ye mete, it shall be measured to you again. Matt 7:2
7. And why beholdest thou the mote that is in thy brother's eye, but considerest not the beam that is in thine own eye? Matt 7:3
8. Or how wilt thou say to thy brother, Let me pull out the mote out of thine eye; and, behold, a beam [is] in thine own eye? Matt 7:4
9. Thou hypocrite, first cast out the beam out of thine own eye; and then shalt thou see clearly to cast out the mote out of thy brother's eye. Matt 7:5

Faith Action Plan:

- Pray in Tongues 1 hour per day
- Do 100 affirmations daily of Psalm 19:14 (which takes approx. 5-7 minutes to say out loud):
“In the Name of Jesus, God has made the words of my mouth and the meditations of my heart pleasing to Him.”