

(ABC's that threaten Christian living)

Quarrelsome And Contentious

By Dr. Gary M. Gulan, ©1986, (Rev. 99)

Timeless Truths (Why should I avoid quarreling and contention?)

1. Weakness in faith can cause "contention" (Gr. "dialogismos") over doubtful things, Rom. 14:1.
2. Christians are commanded to do all things without "disputing" (Gr. "dialogismon") Phil.2:14; and without "strife" (Gr. "eridi"), Rom. 13:13.
3. "Contentiousness" (Gr. "philoneikos") comes when we become self-indulgent in the name of freedom, 1 Cor. 11:16.
4. One of the qualifications for church leadership is not to be "quarrelsome," (Gr. "amachios"), 1 Tim. 3:3 (Titus 1:6, 3:2).
5. God does not approve of "lawlessness" (Gr. "anomos") and "insubordination" (Gr. "anupotaktos" i.e. disorderly) as a result He made the "Law," 1 Tim. 1:9, (not only to reveal man's true condition but also to pass judgment and control sin).
6. "Unruliness" (Gr. "akatastaton") is so easily manifested through the tongue, Ja. 3:8.
7. One way the flesh reveals itself is through "contention" (Gr. "eris"), Gal. 5:19-20; and "strife" (Gr. "eridi"), Rom. 13:13-14 (Rom. 1:29).

Practical Prescriptions (How can I avoid quarreling and contention?)

1. Work on keeping contention from developing and spreading!

"...Both to exhort and convict those who contradict. For there are many insubordinate, both idle talkers and deceivers, especially those of the circumcision, whose mouths must be stopped..." Titus 1:9-11.

2. Warn those members who are unruly!

"Now we exhort you, brethren, warn those who are unruly..." 1 Thess. 5:14.

3. Weaken the possibility for contention by practicing forgiveness!

"Therefore, as the elect of God, holy and beloved, put on tender mercies, kindness, humbleness of mind, meekness, longsuffering; bearing with one another, and forgiving one another, if any has a complaint against another; even as Christ forgave you, so you also must do." Col. 3:12-13.

4. Walk in such a way that will bring God's peace to your life!

"Let the peace of God rule in your hearts..." Col. 3:15.

"...Become complete. Be of good comfort, be of one mind, live in peace; and the God of love and peace will be with you." 2 Cor. 13:11.

"Pursue peace with all men, and holiness..." Heb. 12:14.

"...Be at peace among yourselves." 1 Thess 5:13.

"Let him turn away from evil, and do good ; let him seek peace and pursue it." 1 Pt. 3:11.

"Let us walk properly, as in the day... not in strife..." Rom. 13:13.

5. Watch how you use your speech so as not to cause contentions!

"But no man can tame the tongue, it is an unruly evil, full of deadly poison." Ja. 3:8