

CONTENTION

Severe disagreement; quarrelsomeness

CAUSED BY:

1. Pride: Proverbs 13:10
Pride is an ingredient in every quarrel. The word pride here means an unyielding arrogance. We are to be open to the advice of others.
2. Disagreement: Acts 15:36-41
Example here is the sharp disagreement between Paul and Barnabas. In this disagreement, God worked to open up two missionary endeavors instead of one. Christians will not always agree but problems can be solved by allowing God to work through it rather than causing further strife and division.
3. Divisions: 1 Corinthians 1:11-13
The personalities of the different leaders attracted different people to each one and this had brought about division in the church and with it the danger of dividing. Paul attempts to reinforce the fact that all preachers and teachers are to emphasize Christ to the people. The message of God is more important than the human messenger.
4. A quarrelsome spirit: Galatians 5:15
The word "bite" means: to backbite the character.
The word "devour": the substance by injuring, extortion
The spirit can destroy the spirituality of each other and therefore the influence of the church as a whole. Confronting should be done in love.

ANTIDOTES OF CONTENTION:

1. Avoid the contentious: Proverbs 21:19
In this verse, it speaks of a wife, but the same can be applied to any contentious person.
2. Avoid the controversies: Titus 3:9
Arguments more often lead to further problems rather than changing anyone's mind. The meaning in this verse means foolish arguments do not lead to yielding moral fruit.
3. Abandon the quarrel: Proverbs 17:14
To start a conflict by any means is like breaching a dam. It will result in a flood of destruction. It may start out as a small matter but it can often grow to the point of no control. Drop it before the dispute starts.

4. Follow peace: Romans 12:18-21

As much as is possible live at peace with everyone. Don't result to seeking revenge for any wrongdoing but rather turn it all over to God in order to allow for God's wrath to do its work in the situation. His ways of dealing are far more effective to bring either repentance or judgment into their lives.