

Doctrine of Striving

1. An angry person will stir up moments to contend with another. It is his nature to do so.
 - *Proverbs 15:18 A wrathful man stirreth up strife: but he that is slow to anger appeaseth strife.*
2. The word for "strife" is *madown* (maw-dohn') in the Hebrew and is translated as *brawling, contention, contentious, discord, strife*.
3. It is a perverse man who stirs up strife. The perverseness comes because the moment is deliberate.
 - *Proverbs 16:28 A froward man soweth strife: and a whisperer separateth chief friends.*

The word "froward" in the Hebrew is *tahpukah* (tah-poo-kaw') and refers to a fraud or a perverse person.
4. It is better to be alone than to be in a household of contention.
 - *Proverbs 17:1 Better is a dry morsel, and quietness therewith, than an house full of sacrifices with strife.*
5. There is a defining moment in every conflict. Once the verbal war begins it may not end easily.
 - *Proverbs 17:14 The beginning of strife is as when one letteth out water: therefore leave off contention, before it be meddled with.*
6. To love verbal and emotional combat is to love evil.
 - *Proverbs 17:19 He loveth transgression that loveth strife: and he that exalteth his gate seeketh destruction.*
7. The honorable person will avoid conflict.
 - *Proverbs 20:3 It is an honour for a man to cease from strife: but every fool will be meddling.*
8. Much contention is related to a cynical spirit identified in modern day vocabulary as "Fine!" "Whatever!" "Go, ahead, I don't care what you do" Etc.
 - *Proverbs 22:10 Cast out the scorner, and contention shall go out; yea, strife and reproach shall cease.*

9. A lot of controversy is related to taking up a cause that does not belong to oneself.
 - *Proverbs 26:17 He that passeth by, and meddleth with strife belonging not to him, is like one that taketh a dog by the ears.*
10. Verbal warfare is like a bonfire in that it needs fuel to keep going.
 - *Proverbs 26:20 Where no wood is, there the fire goeth out: so where there is no talebearer, the strife ceaseth.*
11. It is the nature of coal and wood to burn. So it is the nature of a contentious person to engage in strife. To realize and abhor what one is by nature is to have hope for change.
 - *Proverbs 26:21 As coals are to burning coals, and wood to fire; so is a contentious man to kindle strife.*
12. Pride is a source for much conflict. Either someone's will is not honored or thoughts are not appreciated.
 - *Proverbs 28:25 He that is of a proud heart stirreth up strife: but he that putteth his trust in the LORD shall be made fat.*
13. The sin of strife leads to the other transgressions.
 - *Proverbs 29:22 An angry man stirreth up strife, and a furious man aboundeth in transgression.*
14. To press a moment of anger, to be willful in a given situation is certain to bring forth strife.
 - *Proverbs 30:33 Surely the churning of milk bringeth forth butter, and the wringing of the nose bringeth forth blood: so the forcing of wrath bringeth forth strife.*
15. Some people love to fight more than they like to eat.
 - *Isaiah 58:4 Behold, ye fast for strife and debate, and to smite with the fist of wickedness: ye shall not fast as ye do this day, to make your voice to be heard on high.*
16. Some people are wise enough to lament their tendency to violence and strife.
 - *Jeremiah 15:10 Woe is me, my mother, that thou hast borne me a man of strife and a man of contention to the whole earth! I have neither lent on usury, nor men have lent to me on usury; yet every one of them doth curse me.*

17. Geographical places can become identified with moments of strife such as Kadesh where God strove with the children of Israel and their unbelief.
- *Ezekiel 47:19 And the south side southward, from Tamar even to the waters of strife in Kadesh, the river to the great sea. And this is the south side southward.*
18. God is angry that He is forced to witness strife and contention in His people.
- *Habakkuk 1:3 Why dost thou shew me iniquity, and cause me to behold grievance? For spoiling and violence are before me: and there are that raise up strife and contention.*
19. When the disciples became petty about their place in the kingdom of heaven it led to strife.
- *Luke 22:24 And there was also a strife among them, which of them should be accounted the greatest.*
20. The Christian is forbidden to have a life characterized by strife.
- *Romans 13:13 Let us walk honestly, as in the day; not in rioting and drunkenness, not in chambering and wantonness, not in strife and envying.*
21. It is a sign of carnality and lack of spiritual maturity to be a person who strives with others.
- *1 Corinthians 3:3 For ye are yet carnal: for whereas there is among you envying, and strife, and divisions, are ye not carnal, and walk as men?*
22. Having a contentious spirit that is always in turmoil or conflict with another is a sign of the works of the flesh.
- *Galatians 5:19 Now the works of the flesh are manifest, which are these; Adultery, fornication, uncleanness, lasciviousness, 20 Idolatry, witchcraft, hatred, variance, emulations, wrath, strife, seditions, heresies,*
23. Sometimes those who have not been called, but who are competitive by nature, and just enjoy controversy, preach the gospel. The spirit of strife is covered in the name of contending for the faith.
- *Philippians 1:15 Some indeed preach Christ even of envy and strife; and some also of good will:*
24. The Bible commands believers to do nothing through strife or self-glorification.
- *Philippians 2:3 Let nothing be done through strife or vainglory; but in lowliness of mind let each esteem other better than themselves.*

25. The proud man is the man who must have the last word.

- *1 Timothy 6:4 He is proud, knowing nothing, but dotting about questions and strifes of words, whereof cometh envy, strife, railings, evil surmisings,*

26. Sometimes the taking of an oath can settle a matter.

- *Hebrews 6:16 For men verily swear by the greater: and an oath for confirmation is to them an end of all strife.*

27. No one who is self-willed and contentious should boast in that fact.

- *James 3:14 But if ye have bitter envying and strife in your hearts, glory not, and lie not against the truth.*

29. In a ministry full of strife there is confusion and much evil.

- *James 3:16 For where envying and strife is, there is confusion and every evil work.*