

Zion Christian Assembly Berean Hour  
July 2010  
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## **"Exposing Strife in the Body of Christ"**

James 3:16

### **Biblical References**

*"For where envy and self-seeking exist, confusion and every evil thing are there."* New King James Version

*"For wherever there is jealousy and selfish ambition, there you will find disorder and evil of every kind."* New Living Translation

*"For wherever there is jealousy (envy) and contention (rivalry and selfish ambition), there will also be confusion (unrest, disharmony, rebellion) and all sorts of evil and vile practices."* The Amplified Bible

*"Whenever you're trying to look better than others or get the better of others, things fall apart and everyone ends up at the others' throats."* The Message Bible

**Definition:** Strife is bickering, arguing, heated disagreement or any angry undercurrent; fighting, heated, often violent conflict; bitter dissension; a struggle between rivals; or contention.

### **Causes of Strife**

1. Hatred-prejudiced hostility or animosity (Proverbs 10:12)
2. Pride - having or displaying excessive self-esteem; arrogance; claiming for oneself more consideration or importance than one who is warranted (Proverbs 13:10)
3. Contentious: exhibiting an often perverse and wearisome tendency to quarrels and disputes; likely to cause an argument (Proverbs 2:21)
4. Anger: a strong feeling of displeasure and usually of antagonism (Proverbs 29:22)

## **Antidotes for Strife**

1. Put off the old man and his characteristics (Ephesians 4:22)
2. Put on the new man and his characteristics (Ephesians 4:25)

## **Thoughts to Ponder**

1. How do we begin living free of strife?
2. What will be your personal appearance if you put off all strife?
3. What will be your effect if you put off all strife?
4. What will be the appearance of Zion if we can put off all strife?
5. What will be the effect of Zion if we can put off all strife?