

POLITICS: The Hallmark Of Little Men

For ye are yet carnal: for whereas *there is* among you envying, and strife, and divisions, are ye not carnal, and walk as men? (1 Corinthians 3:3)

There are four distinctly different usages for the word *strive* as found in the New Testament.

1. **Philoneikia**: The love of strife. Eager to be contentious. (see Luke 22:24.)

2. **Eris**: Contention, strife, and wrangling. (see Rom. 13:13; 1 Cor. 3:3; Phil. 1:15; 1Tim. 6:4.)

3. **Antilogia**: Disputing just to be contradictory. Arguing in disobedience, gainsaying, and rebellion. (see Heb. 6:16.)

4. **Eritheia**: Electioneering or intriguing for office. To promote oneself in a fractious political demeanor. To become political. Creating division through politics or to become partisan. To esteem oneself or one's group above another. (To become elite in your own eyes.) (see Gal. 5:20.)

In this verse, politics is mentioned as the work of the flesh. As with all works of the flesh, if one continues to traffic in it, eventually it will not be simply a working of the flesh, but it becomes a sin of the spirit, i.e., the spirit of adultery. A spiritual stronghold develops over a prolonged period of ongoing sinning and repenting.

“Let nothing be done through strife (politics) or vainglory; but in lowliness of mind let each esteem others better than themselves.” (Philippians 2:3)

“But if ye have bitter envying and strife (politics) in your hearts, glory not, and lie not against the truth.”
(James 3:14)

“For where envying and strife (politics) is, there is confusion and every evil work.” (James 3:16)

Pastor Bill Pitman