

1 Timothy 6:4

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

He is proud, knowing nothing, but doting about questions and strifes of words, whereof cometh envy, strife, railings, evil surmisings,

Analysis

He is proud, knowing nothing (τετύφωται, μηδὲν ἐπιστάμενος, tetyphōtai, mēden epistamenos)—'he is puffed up with conceit, understanding nothing.' Typhoō means to be conceited, clouded with pride (used of elders in 3:6). Despite his arrogance, the false teacher knows nothing of real truth.

But doting about questions and strifes of words (ἀλλὰ νοσῶν περὶ ζητήσεις καὶ λογομαχίας, alla nosōn peri zētēseis kai logomachias)—'but having a morbid craving for controversies and quarrels about words.' Noseō means to be sick, diseased. Logomachia (only here in NT) means word-battles, semantic quarrels.

Whereof cometh envy, strife, railings, evil surmisings (ἐξ ᾧ γίνεται φθόνος, ἔρις, βλασφημία, ὑπόνοια πονηραί, ex hōn ginetai phthonos, eris, blasphēmiai, hyponoiai ponērai)—from these come 'envy, strife, slander, evil suspicions.' False teaching produces relational poison, not godly love. The false teacher is intellectually sick, obsessed with disputes that breed division.

Historical Context

The Greco-Roman world valued rhetoric, philosophical debate, and intellectual prowess. Some false teachers in Ephesus likely prided themselves on their sophistication—complex genealogies, elaborate myths, refined argumentation. Paul

exposes their pretense: they're sick with pride, producing nothing but controversy and division. True wisdom produces peace and godliness (James 3:17-18).

Related Passages

Ephesians 2:8 — Salvation by grace through faith

John 3:16 — God's love and salvation

Hebrews 11:1 — Definition of faith

Romans 1:17 — The righteous shall live by faith

Study Questions

1. How does intellectual pride ('knowing nothing') lead to obsession with controversies?
2. What fruit distinguishes false teaching (strife, slander) from sound doctrine (love, peace)?
3. How can churches avoid the trap of valuing intellectual sophistication over godly wisdom?

Interlinear Text

τετύφωται μηδὲν ἐπιστάμενος ἀλλὰ νοσῶν περὶ ζητήσεις

He is proud **nothing** **knowing** **but** **doting** **about** **questions**

G5187 G3367 G1987 G235 G3552 G4012 G2214

καὶ λογομαχίας ἐξ ὅν γίνεται φθόνος ἔρις

and **strifes of words** **whereof** **cometh** **envy** **strife**

G2532 G3055 G1537 G1096 G5355 G2054

βλασφημίαι ὑπόνοιαι πονηραί

railings **surmises** **evil**

G988 G5283 G4190

Additional Cross-References

2 Timothy 2:23 (Parallel theme): But foolish and unlearned questions avoid, knowing that they do gender strifes.

1 Timothy 3:6 (Evil): Not a novice, lest being lifted up with pride he fall into the condemnation of the devil.

2 Timothy 3:4 (Parallel theme): Traitors, heady, highminded, lovers of pleasures more than lovers of God;

2 Peter 2:12 (Evil): But these, as natural brute beasts, made to be taken and destroyed, speak evil of the things that they understand not; and shall utterly perish in their own corruption;

Jude 1:10 (Evil): But these speak evil of those things which they know not: but what they know naturally, as brute beasts, in those things they corrupt themselves.

2 Timothy 2:14 (Word): Of these things put them in remembrance, charging them before the Lord that they strive not about words to no profit, but to the subverting of the hearers.

2 Peter 2:18 (Word): For when they speak great swelling words of vanity, they allure through the lusts of the flesh, through much wantonness, those that were clean escaped from them who live in error.

1 Timothy 1:7 (Word): Desiring to be teachers of the law; understanding neither what they say, nor whereof they affirm.

1 Timothy 1:4 (Parallel theme): Neither give heed to fables and endless genealogies, which minister questions, rather than godly edifying which is in faith: so do.

Jude 1:16 (Word): These are murmurers, complainers, walking after their own lusts; and their mouth speaketh great swelling words, having men's persons in admiration because of advantage.