

James 3:16

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

For where envying and strife is, there is confusion and every evil work.

Analysis

For where envying and strife is, there is confusion and every evil work. Where jealousy and selfish ambition exist, there is disorder (akatastasia, ἀκαταστασία) and every vile practice. Internal motives produce communal chaos. The church reflects its leaders' heart posture.

Reformed ecclesiology values order and peace; James reveals that carnal motives unravel both. Tongue issues become structural disorder when unchecked.

Historical Context

Diaspora congregations likely experienced strife due to competing teachers. James names root causes to help them pursue peace. Paul's warnings against strife (Galatians 5:20) align with this diagnosis.",

Related Passages

Romans 1:17 — The righteous shall live by faith

James 2:17 — Faith and works

Study Questions

1. Where do you see disordered relationships arising from selfish ambition?

2. How can you address root motives rather than symptoms?
3. What steps restore order in conflicted contexts?

Interlinear Text

ὅπου	γὰρ	ζῆλος	καὶ	ἐριθεία	ἐκεῖ	ἀκαταστασία	καὶ
where	For	envying	and	strife	is there	is confusion	and
G3699	G1063	G2205	G2532	G2052	G1563	G181	G2532

πάν	φαῦλον	πρᾶγμα
every	evil	work
G3956	G5337	G4229

Additional Cross-References

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

1 Corinthians 3:3 (Parallel theme): 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 14:33 (Parallel theme): For God is not the author of confusion, but of peace, as in all churches of the saints.

1 John 3:12 (Evil): Not as Cain, who was of that wicked one, and slew his brother. And wherefore slew he him? Because his own works were evil, and his brother's righteous.

Galatians 5:20 (Parallel theme): Idolatry, witchcraft, hatred, variance, emulations, wrath, strife, seditions, heresies,