

or "enmities." R. Alan Cole paraphrases the term "hostile feelings."⁶

This is the opposite of "love," which heads the list in verse 22. H. Bietenhard comments on the two basic heart attitudes:

When our relationships with others rise above absolute indifference, they are conditioned by basic attitudes which may be positive or negative in character. The New Testament describes an inward attitude which is directed positively toward the well-being of another as love or friendship, and the esteem which derives from such an attitude as honour. The opposite concepts are enmity and hatred.⁷

A negative attitude toward others is natural to the flesh. To the self-centered person, other people are to be used, not loved. Hostility increases greatly whenever the self is threatened. Loss of prestige, loss of advantage, a blocking of ambition, or any undermining of personal security is an occasion for the sinful heart to burn with hatred toward the source of irritation. Teamwork offers many opportunities for the flesh to do what comes naturally.

Sin unchecked always progresses toward its goal of bringing death. James 1:15 reads, "...after desire has conceived, it gives birth to death." As hostility grows it causes strife (*ÉPIS*). This is the first outward manifestation of the inward hostile attitude.

⁶R. A. Cole, "The Epistle of Paul to the Galatians," The Tyndale New Testament Commentary, (London: Tyndale Press, 1965), p. 161. The eight item list reads, according to Cole, "hostile feelings, contentiousness, jealousy, temper tantrums, canvassing for position, dissensions, factions, envy."

⁷H. Bietenhard, "Enemy, Enmity, Hate," The New International Dictionary of New Testament Theology, Colin Brown, ed., (Exeter, England: Exeter Paternoster Press, 1975), p. 553.