

It is an interesting feature of this list that it contains three sets of synonyms. The second ( *ἔρις* ) and fifth ( *ἐπιθείαι* ) words in the list are often translated by the same English word "strife." *ἔρις* is used nine times in the New Testament translated four times as "strife" otherwise "debate" (2), "variance" (1), "contentions" (2); *ἐπιθείαι* is used seven times, translated five times "strife" and the other two times as "contention". The other two sets of synonyms include the third *ζῆλος* and eighth word *φθόνος* both meaning jealousy or envy, and the sixth and seventh words which speak of division.

The fact that Paul uses words close in their meaning gives further evidence that he intends that a design in the arrangement of the words be recognized. The synonyms found later in the list are fuller in their meaning showing a progression in the growth of hostility. *ἔρις* conveys the idea of quarreling. For example, in 1 Cor. 1:11, Paul addresses himself to the problem of hostile relations in the congregation at Corinth: "My brothers, some from Chloe's household have informed me that there are quarrels among you."

In 2 Cor. 12:20 *ἔρις* is found again in a list with *ἐπιθείαι* "...I fear that there may be quarreling, jealousy, outbursts of anger, factions, slander, gossip, arrogance and disorder." Here the first word in the list is *ἔρις* and the fourth is *ἐπιθείαι*. (The King James Version of the Bible translates the two "debates" and "strifes" respectively.) This again illustrates that the Apostle Paul must have been emphasizing the difference in meaning between these two words.