

It is a sad fact that the same phrase could sometimes be used to describe the relations between those who are supposed to be spirit-filled men, who teach the pure Word of God. How instructive it is that this matter of rubbing each other the wrong way is never treated lightly in Scripture. It is a serious matter evidencing the motions of sin in the lives of those involved.

This passage in 1 Timothy 6 goes on to reveal the chief motivation of these false teachers. They were clearly interested in engaging in a ministry for what they could gain from it materially, (v. 5). In verses 9 and 10, Paul comments on such motivation:

People who want to get rich fall into temptation and a trap and into many foolish and harmful desires that plunge men into ruin and destruction. For the love of money is the root of all kinds of evil. Some people, eager for money, have wandered from the faith and pierced themselves with many griefs.

The relationship between love of money and envy is obvious. The destruction of opponents is a necessary prerequisite to increasing one's take. Anyone who stands in the way of financial betterment becomes a special target for malicious effort.

Chapter three of James is of special value to this discussion because the writer is appealing to those who would be teachers of God's people (James 3:1). In verse 13 it appears that he is again giving special attention to those aspiring to be teachers when he says, "Who is wise and understanding among you?" The word translated "understanding" could refer to "expert or professional knowledge"²¹ such as would be the possession of trained teachers. It

²¹R. V. Tasker, The General Epistle of James, Tyndale Commentary on the New Testament, (London: Tyndale Press, 1957), p. 79.