



It is all too easy to disguise the ambition to increase one's personal influence under the cloak of "living for God's glory." All the other expressions of selfish ambition could be similarly hidden behind a facade of spirituality. It is inevitable that such hidden ambition will cause bitter envy when anyone interferes with its progress, and this in turn will cause contention.

Dealing with such a situation is not an easy task for team members or outsiders. A. B. Bruce comments on the difficulties of such a situation:

....nothing is harder than to train the human will into loyal subjection to universal principles, to bring men to recognize the claims of the law of love in their mutual relations, to expel pride, ambition, vainglory, and jealousy, and envy from the hearts even of the good. Men may have made progress in the art of prayer, in religious liberty, in Christian activity, may have shown themselves faithful in times of temptation, and apt scholars in Christian doctrine, and yet prove signally defective in temper; self-willed, self-seeking, having an eye to their own glory, even when seeking to glorify God...men full of ambitious passions and jealous of each other could only quarrel among themselves, bring the cause they sought to promote into contempt, and breed all around them confusion and every evil work.<sup>20</sup>

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<sup>20</sup>A. B. Bruce, The Training of the Twelve, (New York: A. C. Armstrong & Son, 1891), pp. 200 & 201.