

with fatalistic resignation. Rather, I believe he is acknowledging a fact which mature individuals must recognize; that the resolution to a conflict does not always result in every party being deliriously happy with the outcome. Some compromises may involve a certain amount of disappointment for one party or the other. For the sake of harmony and the advance of God's work, the loss is accepted as God's will.

Proverbs 18:1-2 speaks of a person who refuses to be party to the kind of openness spoken of by these men. "An unfriendly man pursues selfish ends; he defies all sound judgment." This same attitude is amplified in vs. 2. "A fool finds no pleasure in understanding, but delights in airing his own opinions."

The cause of such behavior is given in the words, "pursues selfish ends." Such a person does not have time for the ideas and opinions of others because he is entirely wrapped up in his own supposed superiority (or in some cases, his sense of inferiority.) He must have an audience who will obediently applaud his opinion but dismisses the thought of others with an, "Uh, huh, that's interesting-- now as I was saying..." He illustrates the fact that pride will demand to be heard, but is oblivious to the fact that love demands that others be heard. It is not hard to imagine a Diotrephes standing in the shoes of the man of Prov. 18:1-2.

Containment

Every team, figuratively speaking, should have a rubber stamp that reads, "Classified Information" or "Top Secret." Certain information should stay within the scope of the team unless disclosure is