

I. Series/Previous Session Review

Song of Solomon 2:15 (NKJV) – *Catch us the foxes, the little foxes that spoil the vines, for our vines have tender grapes*

Song of Solomon 2:15 (LSV) – *Seize for us the foxes, little foxes – DESTROYERS of vineyards, even our sweet-smelling vineyards.*

Song of Solomon 2:15 (GNT) – *Catch the foxes, the little foxes, **before** they ruin our vineyard in bloom*

A. Little Fox of Wrong Thinking

B. Little Fox of Condemnation

C. Little Fox of Negative Emotions

II. The Little Fox of Strife

A. Strife Definition

1. Conflict, friction, discord, disagreement, quarreling, contention, disharmony, *a lack of agreement or harmony* – *Free Dictionary*
2. **Bible Definition** – contention – especially when one places their own interests above others. Biblical strife is contention or feelings toward others with SELF being the main focus, or motivation.
 - a. Contention that occurs when things do not go your way.
 - b. Feelings and emotions that disrupt the flow of harmony and unity.
 - c. The foundation of true strife will always be SELF.
 - d. It is impossible to experience strife unless there is hurt, disappointment or anger involved because of the action or lack of action of others.

B. The extreme dangers of Strife

1. **James 3:16 (KJV)** – *For where envying and strife is, there is confusion and every evil work.*
 - a. **Envying – zeal or excitement of mind – fervor.**
a fervent mind filled with indignation or a jealous zeal.
 - b. Where envying and strife are active in the mind – there is confusion and every evil work.
 - c. **Confusion** – instability – a state of disorder and disturbance
commotion – tumult – lack of quietness and rest.
 - d. **Other Versions:**
 - **James 3:16 (AMP)** – *For where jealousy and selfish ambition exist, there is disorder [unrest, rebellion] and every evil thing and morally degrading practice*
 - **James 3:16 (YLT)** – *for where zeal and rivalry are, there is insurrection and every evil matter. Insurrection = a violent uprising against authority – revolt.*

2. **Where strife is allowed to work – it will become a little fox to faith.**
 - a. Faith cannot work in a heart filled with strife.
 - b. Faith does not work in confusion.
 - c. Faith does not work in disorder.
 - d. **Galatians 5:6 (KJV)** – *For in Jesus Christ neither circumcision availeth anything, nor uncircumcision; but **faith** which **worketh by love***

3. **Strife with Abraham and Lot**
 - a. **Genesis 13:1-9 (NKJV)** – ¹*Then Abram went up from Egypt, he and his wife and all that he had, and Lot with him, to the South.*
²*Abram was very rich in livestock, in silver, and in gold.* ³*And he went on his journey from the South as far as Bethel, to the place where his tent had been at the beginning, between Bethel and Ai,*
⁴*to the place of the altar which he had made there at first. And there Abram called on the name of the LORD.* ⁵*Lot also, who went with Abram, had flocks and herds and tents.* ⁶*Now the land was not able to support them, that they might dwell together, for their possessions were so great that they could not dwell together.* ⁷*And*

there was strife between the herdsmen of Abram’s livestock and the herdsmen of Lot’s livestock. The Canaanites and the Perizzites then dwelt in the land. ⁸So Abram said to Lot, “Please let there be no strife between you and me, and between my herdsmen and your herdsmen; for we are brethren. ⁹Is not the whole land before you? Please separate from me. If you take the left, then I will go to the right; or, if you go to the right, then I will go to the left.

- b. Abraham and Lot had both been blessed extremely.
- c. Strife began with the hired hands, not with Abraham and Lot.
- d. Strife came because of selfish ambition – competition to gain the best of the pastureland personally for their flocks.
- e. Until strife entered the picture – both Abraham and Lot were prospering.
- f. Strife brought a separation.
 - Strife moved Lot away from Abraham the man of covenant.
 - It was not Lot’s strife that moved him, but the strife of those connected to him.
 - Strife will always work to separate and divide.
 - Abraham – Strife caused Abraham to have to separate from Lot – *this was a good separation. If Abraham had not separated from Lot, the contention would have been costly to him.*

NOTE: It was not in the heart of Abraham to separate from Lot, but to avoid STRIFE – disorder/unrest/chaos – it was necessary.

- Lot allowed himself to be moved because of the strife of those connected to him.

NOTE: Lot should have never allowed anything to MOVE him from his relationship with Abraham. Lot should have REMOVED the hired hands that could not work without strife.

PASTORS PERSONAL THOUGHTS: *Over the years I have watched people allow the strife of others to MOVE THEM from the place of their blessing. We should guard strongly against adopting the strife of others as our own. Lot lost everything*

because he allowed the strife of hired hands to disrupt the flow of his blessing through his relationship with Abraham.

C. Scriptures regarding strife

1. **Numbers 27:14 (NKJV)** – ***(Moses allowed the strife of the congregation to stir his emotions and act in the flesh.)*** *For in the Wilderness of Zin, during the strife of the congregation, you rebelled against My command to hallow Me at the waters before their eyes.*

Psalm 106:32-33 (NKJV) – ³²*They angered Him also at the waters of strife, so that it went ill with Moses on account of them;* ³³*Because they rebelled against His Spirit, So that he spoke rashly with his lips*

Trouble came to Moses because of them.

Psalm 106:32-33 (KJV) – *Because they provoked his spirit, so that he spake unadvisedly with his lips.*

NOTE: Moses allowed their strife to get him into strife – strife brought chaos/disorder to his mind and words – *a little fox!*

2. **Proverbs 10:12 (NKJV)** – *Hatred stirs up strife, but love covers all sins*
3. **Proverbs 16:28 (NLT)** – *A troublemaker plants seeds of strife; gossip separates the best of friends.*
4. **Proverbs 17:1 (AMP)** – *Better is a dry morsel [of food served] with quietness and peace than a house full of feasting [served] with strife and contention.*
5. **Proverbs 26:20 (KJV)** – *Where no wood is, there the fire goeth out: so where there is no talebearer, the strife ceaseth*

Proverbs 26:20 (NLT) – *Fire goes out without wood, and quarrels disappear when gossip stop*



Little Foxes that Spoil the Vine Session 4 – Strife
Pastor Dale Campbell

6. **Romans 13:13 (NKJV)** – *Let us walk properly, as in the day, not in revelry and drunkenness, not in lewdness and lust, not in strife and envy*

7. **Philippians 2:3 (KJV)** – *Let nothing be done through strife or vainglory; but in lowliness of mind let each esteem other better than themselves.*