

The rage gives birth to further strife conveyed by the word *ἐπιθιάλ*. The picture of an embittered person spreading the cancer to others is described in the warning in Heb. 12:15, "See to it that no one misses the grace of God and that no bitter root grows up to cause trouble and defile many," (underlining mine). Here the angered person can be seen campaigning for votes in his quest for comfort and revenge.

It has happened too often (once would be too often) that an assistant pastor or youth director have caused a split in a congregation by such activity. Though done in the supposed interest of saving the church from an incompetent leader, the impetus often comes from a bitter spirit.

The result of such an effort is *διχοστασία* (division or dissension) in the congregation. If it has not spread to the larger body it causes a division between those involved. The term is used only three times in the New Testament. All three times it is used by Paul (Rom. 16:17; 1 Cor. 3:3; Gal. 5:20). It appears that the difference between *διχοστασία* and the next word in the list, *αἰρέσεις*, is a matter of degree. *διχοστασία* speaks of people lining up in opposition to each other but still part of the same body. *αἰρέσεις* denotes the progress of the squabble to the formation of permanent parties.

*αἰρέσεις* is most often translated "heresy." It signifies the formation of a separate school or party which stands in opposition to the norm. It is used to designate the major parties in Judaism in Acts 5:17 (Sadducees) and 15:5 (Pharisees). In Gal. 5:20 it speaks of those opposing parties resulting from hostility. It is sobering