

During World War II many people took the trouble to memorize the configurations of friendly and enemy aircraft. While I was in elementary school, I obtained a set of cards that bore the silhouettes of dozens of war planes. I memorized those cards and, like other boys my age, could identify a B-25 or a Japanese Zero at a glance. It was not a game, but serious business at that time. I also remember going with my cousin to a spotting tower to actually stand watch and identify and call in by telephone the planes that were seen.

These lists are to be used in a similar way. The friendlies and the enemies must be recognized readily. The enemies must be resisted and blown from our sky with spiritual weapons. The Spirit of God must have free course to work in our lives enabling us to live in peace and harmony.

Many have commented on the meaning and significance of the nine terms Paul uses in the list given in verses 22 and 23. The interest here is in how this list relates to interteam relations.

The nine terms appear to be arranged in three groups of three. The first three terms could be viewed as superintending attitudes which govern both the inner life of the believer and the outflow of that life to others. The next three, patience, kindness, and goodness, describe the way a person, so governed, treats other people. The first group, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control, appear to be especially significant of those inner graces that act as checks and balances on the believer's behavior.