

The Scriptures do not encourage us to continue such a search, rather they call for an abandonment of what is often a great opportunity for sinful flesh to indulge itself. We are exhorted rather to love God and love our neighbor and to forget self. Helmut Thieliicke puts it well when he comments:

That is to say, it is a remarkable fact -- and this has become my personal conviction, confirmed at every step of the way by life itself -- that I do not attain the greatest possible development of my personality when I consciously try to develop myself, when I am constantly considering: 'where will I have the best chance to live to the fullest? How can I gain prestige in society? Where can I reach the maximum of accomplishment and where can I experience the greatest pleasure?' On the contrary, I arrive at this fulfillment of my personality and my life as a whole only when I do not think about it at all, but rather when I forget myself and devote myself to something else, to another person or to a task, in short, when I serve and love and in both do not think about myself at all.²⁴

If in a ministerial team each member is thinking in terms of their own prestige, development, and happiness the situation is ripe for envy which will inevitably cause strife. Contrawise, if each member is aware of the dangers of preoccupation with self and through the strength of the Lord works toward self-forgetfulness, harmony is possible.

c. Proper structuring can help to minimize envy.

In those arrangements where subordinates are not permitted to carry out a full-orbed ministry there is the occasion for the flesh to produce a sinful reaction. If a man is prevented from doing what he is

²⁴Helmut Thieliicke, How the World Began, (Philadelphia: Fortress Press, 1974), pp. 90, 91.