

Opinions and Contention

What is the difference between difference in opinion and contention?

[Alma 19 : 55](#) Now my son, I do not say that their resurrection cometh at the resurrection of Christ; but behold, I **give it as my opinion**, that the souls and the bodies are reunited, of the righteous at the resurrection of Christ, and his ascension into heaven.

[1 Kings 18 : 21](#) And Elijah came unto all the people, and said, How long halt ye **between two opinions**? if the LORD be God, follow him: but if Baal, then follow him. And the people answered him not a word.

[Job 32 : 6](#) And Elihu the son of Barachel the Buzite answered and said, I am young, and ye are very old; wherefore I was afraid, and durst not shew you mine **opinion**.

[Job 32 : 10](#) Therefore I said, Hearken to me; I also will shew mine **opinion**.

[Job 32 : 17](#) I said, I will answer also my part, I also will shew mine **opinion**.

[Jude 1 : 3](#) Beloved, when I gave all diligence to write unto you of the common salvation, it was needful for me to write unto you, and exhort you that ye should earnestly **contend** for the faith which was once delivered unto the saints.

Contend:

ἐπ-αγωνίζομαι; *to contend*: τινί, for a thing, Jude 3. (τῶ Ἀννίβα, against Hannibal, Plut. Fab. 23, 2; ταῖς νίκαις, added a new contest to his victories, id. Cim. 13, 4; by others in diff. senses.) *

[Jude 1 : 9](#) Yet Michael the archangel, when **contending** with the devil he disputed about the body of Moses, durst not bring against him a railing accusation, but said, The Lord rebuke thee.

Young's Literal Translation

yet Michael, the chief messenger, when, with the devil contending, he was disputing about the body of Moses, **did not dare to bring up an evil-speaking judgment**, but said, 'The Lord rebuke thee!'

Contending Strong's G1252 - *diakrinō* **1) to separate, make a distinction**, discriminate, to prefer **2) to learn by discrimination, to try, decide a) to determine, give judgment, decide a dispute** **3) to withdraw from one, desert** **4) to separate one's self in a hostile spirit, to oppose, strive with dispute, contend** **5) to be at variance with one's self, hesitate, doubt**

[Acts 15 : 39](#) And the **contention** was so sharp between them, that they departed asunder one from the other: and so Barnabas took Mark, and sailed unto Cyprus;

[Hebrews 10 : 24](#) And let us consider one another to **provoke unto love and to good works**:

Contention or Provoke 1) an inciting, incitement **2)** irritation

[Jacob 5 : 44](#) Born in tribulation, in a wilderness, and hated of our brethren, which caused **wars and contentions**; wherefore, we did mourn out our days.

Contention: Strong's H4683 - *matstsaḥ* [contention](#) 1, [strife](#) 1, [debate](#) 1

Strong's H7379 - *riyb* **1)** strife, controversy, dispute **a)** strife, quarrel **b)** dispute, controversy, case at law

[Mosiah 1 : 73](#) But O my people, **beware lest there shall arise contentions among you**, and **ye list to obey the evil spirit**, which was spoken of by my father Mosiah.

[Mosiah 12 : 4](#) That they might become friendly to one another, and that there should be no more **contentions** in all the land which the Lord their God hath given them.

[Proverbs 13 : 10](#) **Only by pride cometh contention**: but with the well advised is wisdom.

[Proverbs 22 : 10](#) **Cast out the scorner, and contention shall go out; yea, strife and reproach shall cease.**

[Alma 2 : 15, 4:4](#) And thus in this eighth year of the reign of the Judges, there began to be great **contentions** among the people of the church; **16** Yea, there were **envyings, and strifes, and malice, and persecutions, and pride, even to exceed the pride** of those who did not belong to the church of God. **17** And thus ended the eighth year of the reign of the Judges; and the wickedness of the church was a great stumbling block to those who did not belong to the church; and thus the church began to fail in its progress.... I mean those which were **lifted up in the pride of their hearts; the same were rejected, and their names were blotted out**, that their names were not numbered among those of the righteous; and thus they began to establish the order of the church in the city of Zarahemla.

[II Corinthians 12 : 20](#) For I fear, lest, when I come, I shall not find you such as I would, **and** that I shall be found unto you such as ye would not: lest there be debates, **envyings**, wraths, **strifes**, backbitings, whisperings, swellings, tumults:

Anger- Strong's H3707 - *ka`ac* **1)** to be angry, be vexed, be indignant, be **wroth**, be grieved, **provoke to anger and wrath**

Anger- Strong's G3709 - *orgē* **2)** movement or agitation of the soul, impulse, desire, **any violent emotion, but esp. anger** **3)** anger, **wrath**, indignation , **AV** — **wrath** 31, **anger** 3, **vengeance** 1, **indignation** 1

Anger- Strong's G3710 – *orgizō* **1)** to provoke, to arouse to anger **2)** to be provoked to anger, be angry, **be wroth**

Wrath Strong's G2372 - *thymos* **1)** passion, **angry**, heat, anger forthwith boiling up and soon subsiding again

The human person is made up of many emotions. Some of these such as envy, spite, jealousy, anger, wrath, and pride, also referred to as vices, are out of harmony with the type of person who God wants to live with. We are commanded to suppress, deny and put down these selfish emotions. God wants to develop within us a concern and a love for others. To control these unwanted self-serving emotions, first and foremost we must understand that people DO NOT MAKE US ENVOIOUS, JEALOUS, ANGRY OR BITTER. Yes they can and do provoke us, but we are the masters over these extremely damaging emotions! We choose how and whether to yield to provocation.

II Nephi 3 : 45 43 And **why should I yield to sin**, because of my flesh? **44** Yea, **why should I give way to temptations, that the evil one have place in my heart**, to destroy my peace and afflict my soul? **45** **Why am I angry because of mine enemy?** **46** Awake, my soul! **No longer droop in sin.** **47** Rejoice, O my heart, and give place no more for the enemy of my soul. **48** **Do not anger again, because of mine enemies.**

Psalms 37 : 7-9 7 Rest in the LORD, and wait patiently for him: fret not thyself because of him who prospereth in his way, because of the man who bringeth wicked devices to pass. **8** **Cease from anger, and forsake wrath: fret not thyself in any wise to do evil.** 9 For evildoers shall be cut off: but those that wait upon the LORD, they shall inherit the earth. Both in church or not, does it make a difference?

Proverbs 15 : 18 A wrathful man stirreth up strife: **but he that is slow to anger appeaseth strife.**

III Nephi 5 : 70 But I say unto you, that **whosoever is angry with his brother, shall be in danger of his judgment.** And whosoever shall say to **his brother, a Raca**, shall be in danger of the council; and whosoever shall say, **Thou fool**, shall be in danger of hell fire;

Alma 12 : 202 For behold he hath repented of his sins; but if thou shouldst fall at this time, **in thine anger, thy soul could not be saved.**

[II Nephi 12 : 23-24](#) For the kingdom of the devil must shake, and they which belong to it must needs be stirred up unto repentance, or the devil will grasp them with his everlasting chains, and **they be stirred up to anger and perish: For behold, at that day shall he rage in the hearts of the children of men, and stir them up to anger against that which is good;**

[III Nephi 5 : 30-31](#) For verily, verily I say unto you, He that hath the spirit of contention, is not of me, but is of **the devil, which is the father of contention**, and he stirreth up the hearts of men to contend with **anger** one with another; Behold, **this is not my doctrine**, to stir up the hearts of men with **anger** one against another; but this is my doctrine, that **such things should be done away**.

[Colossians 3 : 8](#) But now **ye also put off all these; anger, wrath, malice, blasphemy, filthy communication out of your mouth**.

[Gal 5:20](#) **19** Now the works of the flesh are manifest, which are these; Adultery, fornication, uncleanness, lasciviousness, **20** Idolatry, witchcraft, hatred, variance, emulations, **wrath** [2372](#), strife, seditions, heresies,

Are we contending for the faith or for ourselves??

[Alma 1 : 10-13,32-34](#) **10** And it came to pass as he was going to preach to those who believed on his word, he met **a man which belonged to the church of God**, yea, even one of their teachers; **11** And he began to **contend with him sharply, that he might lead away the people of the church;** but the **man withstood him, admonishing him with the words of God.** **12** Now the name of the man was Gideon; and it was **him that was an instrument in the hands of God**, in delivering the people of Limhi out of bondage. **13** Now **because Gideon withstood him with the words of God**, he was wroth with Gideon, and **drew his sword and began to smite him. ...** **32** Nevertheless, there were many among them **who began to be proud**, and began to **contend warmly** with their adversaries, **even unto blows**; yea, they would **smite one another with their fists**. **33** Now this was in the second year of the reign of Alma, and it was a cause of much affliction to the church; yea, it was the cause of **much trial with the church**; **34** For the **hearts of many were hardened, and their names were blotted out, that they were remembered no more among the people of God.** **35** And also **many withdrew themselves from among them**.

[Matthew 22 : 39](#) **36** Master, which is the great commandment in the law? **37** Jesus said unto him, Thou shalt **love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind.** **38** This is the first and great commandment. **39** And the second is like unto it, Thou shalt **love thy neighbour as thyself.** **40** On these two commandments hang all the law and the prophets.

[Matthew 5 : 38-48](#) **38** Ye have heard that it hath been said, An eye for an eye, and a tooth for a tooth: **39** But I say unto you, That ye resist not evil: but **whosoever shall smite thee on thy right cheek, turn to him the other also.** **40** And if any man will sue thee at the law, and take away thy coat, let him have thy cloak also. **41** And whosoever shall compel thee to go a mile, go with him twain. **42** Give to him that asketh thee, and from him that would borrow of thee turn not thou away. **43** Ye have heard that it hath been said, Thou shalt love thy neighbour, and hate thine enemy. **44** But I say unto you, **Love your enemies, bless them that curse you, do good to them that hate you, and pray for them which despitefully use you, and persecute you;** **45** That ye may be the children of your Father which is in heaven: for he maketh his sun to rise on the evil and on the good, and sendeth rain on the just and on the unjust. **46** For if ye love them which love you, what reward have ye? do not even the publicans the same? **47** And if ye salute your brethren only, what do ye more than others? do not even the publicans so? **48** Be ye therefore perfect, even as your Father which is in heaven is perfect.

[Moroni 9 : 3-6](#) **3** And now behold, my son, I fear lest the Lamanites shall destroy this people, for they do not repent, and **Satan stirreth them up continually to anger,** one with another. **4** Behold, I am laboring with them continually; and **when I speak the word of God with sharpness, they tremble and anger against me;** and when I use no sharpness, they harden their hearts against it; wherefore I fear lest the Spirit of the Lord hath ceased striving with them.**5** For so exceedingly do they **anger,** that it seemeth me that they have no fear of death; and they have **lost their love, one towards another;** and they thirst after blood and revenge continually. **6** And now my beloved son, notwithstanding their hardness, **let us labor diligently; for if we should cease to labor, we should be brought under condemnation; for we have a labor to perform whilst in this tabernacle of clay,** that we may conquer the enemy of all righteousness, and rest out souls in the kingdom of God.

“Only by Pride cometh Contention”