

“For to be carnally minded is death; but to be spiritually minded is life and peace. 7 Because the carnal mind is enmity against God: for it is not subject to the law of God, neither indeed can be” (Romans 8:6-7).

Enmity. Today we will take a close look at a word that is oftentimes mentioned in scripture and I am sure, in congregations around the world. But do we know what it means or what it implies? What is the outcome of one who carnally minded? Death? Life?

Dictionary Perspective.

Surprisingly, the word **enmity** only appears eight times in the King James Version of the Bible. Three of these occur in the Old Testament (OT) and the other five are contained in the New Testament (NT). In the case of the OT, one of these occurs in a very familiar scripture, Genesis 3:15, where it states,

*“And I will put **enmity** between thee and the woman, and between thy seed and her seed; it shall bruise thy head, and thou shalt bruise his heel.”*

There are a lot of things I can think of that can be put between me, but I certainly do not want God to place enmity between Him and me. Let us pray for what God has done right there in the garden. Satan! God, I thank you for the enmity you placed between “thee” and “thy seed and her seed”.

Hebrew perspective. Genesis 3:15 is the first time the word occurs as noted above. Here, the Hebrew word is *eybah*, Strong’s #H342, a noun meaning hatred or hostile mind; the root word is *ayab*, Strong’s #H340, an action verb which means “to be hostile to, to be an enemy to, to treat as an enemy. The Gesenius’ Hebrew-Chaldee Lexicon goes even further and states the following:

“To be an adversary to any one, to persecute him as an enemy, to hate. (The original idea I believe to be that of breathing, blowing, puffing, an idea often applied to anger and hatred...”

Strong’s #H340 אִיֵּב is closely associated with #H341 אִיֵּב where the English word is enemies vice enemy in the case of #H341; it uses the same Hebrew letters; only the vowel points are different. Note above. I do believe you will gain a deeper understanding by soaking in the following scripture, a Word spoken to God’s people, informing them of what He would do – “if”.

“But if thou shalt indeed obey his voice, and do all that I speak; then I will be an enemy unto thine enemies, and an adversary unto thine adversaries” (Exodus 23:22).

Greek perspective. The word **enmity** or hatred occurs six times in the NT (Luke 23:12, Romans 8:7, Galatians 5:20, Ephesians 2:15, 16 and James 4:4). Each of these passages is worth noting here. Please pay attention to these words as they are inspired men of the LORD.

“And the same day Pilate and Herod were made friends together: for before they were at enmity between themselves” (Luke 23:12).

*“Idolatry, witchcraft, **hatred**, variance, emulations, wrath, strife, seditions, heresies” (Galatians 5:20).¹*

*“Having abolished in his flesh the **enmity** even the law of commandments **contained** in ordinances; for to make in himself of twain one new man, **so** making peace; And that he might reconcile both unto God in one body by the cross, having slain the **enmity** thereby:” (Ephesians 2:15-16).*

*“Ye adulterers and adulteresses, know ye not that the friendship of the world is enmity **G2189** with God? whosoever therefore will be a friend of the world is the enemy of God” (James 4:4).*

*“Because the carnal mind is **enmity** against God: for it is not subject to the law of God, neither indeed can be” (Romans 8:7).*

The Greek word for enmity is *echthra*, Strong’s #G2189, a feminine noun that is not very well defined in the Blueletter Bible lexicon. However, the root etymology of the word is *echthros*, an adjective, Strong’s #G2190 and means, “hated, odious, hateful”. It goes on to state that it is “used of men as at enmity with God by their sin”, opposing (God) in the mind,” “a certain enemy,” “the devil who is the most bitter enemy of the divine government.” The fact that the devil is the most bitter enemy is borne out in various scriptures such as Luke 10:19 where he gives power to his disciples “over the power of the enemy”.

¹ So here in Galatians, it is included with a long list of the “works of the flesh”. And we know that one who walks in the flesh cannot please God. The student is encouraged to study Romans 8 and know and understand how the fleshly man measures up to God. In Galatians, the word hatred is used instead of enmity.

The word enemy certainly deserves our attention as well; however, we will hold to the word enmity for now. For now, just remember that the word enemy as well as foes is also Strong's #2190. The gospels as well as the epistles have a great deal to say about the enemy, most importantly, "the last enemy that shall be destroyed is death" (1 Corinthians 15:26).

So the next time someone asks you what it means to be at **enmity**. One word can describe it all: death. As Romans 8:6-7 states, "*For to be carnally minded is death; but to be spiritually minded is life and peace. 7 Because the carnal mind is **enmity** against God: for it is not subject to the law of God, neither indeed can be*". Please read this scripture carefully. A carnal-minded man or woman is sitting on death row! The carnal-minded man is not subject to the law of God. His body is dead --- because of sin. Paul states it very clearly:

"Now if any man have not the Spirit of Christ, he is none of his. 10 And if Christ be in you, the body is dead because of sin; but the Spirit is life because of righteousness. 11 But if the Spirit of him that raised up Jesus from the dead dwell in you, he that raised up Christ from the dead shall also quicken your mortal bodies by his Spirit that dwelleth in you" (Romans 9a-11).

How is your walk today? In the flesh or in the Spirit? As for me and my house, we will serve the LORD.