

it, but they entered it ~~with~~ as ~~the~~ partners desiring to do the Lord's work and putting the Lord first and their love to each other second, and the Lord blessed in it. And so I think that this law of jealousy in Paul's words in 2 Cor. 13:5 are a warning to us, that among those whom you would think such things would not even be mentioned yet that ~~y~~ even among such there is great danger of falling into gross sin, a great danger of failing to carry out promises that we have made, failing to do as we must do if we are to serve the Lord effectively.

in this

But there is also the other side of the picture here, which I think is important./ You notice it calls it the law of jealousy . The purpose of this was not simply to try to maintain purity among the people, important as that was. The purpose was also to put an end to jealousy and suspicions whether founded or not. During this wilderness journey it was vital that the people's minds not be filled with suspicion and God in this case, during this brief time, gave a means of determining definitely about ~~the~~/ those suspicious. But the great harm is done in the church of Christ by the gross sins in which God's people fall, but tremendous harm is done to the church and also to the individual by the suspicions, ~~by~~ the jealousies, by the resentments that get into our minds and hearts and do so much to wreck our lives.

One of the commonest ~~lines/ of~~ miseries of people today in almost any line of work is ulcers, and ulcers are due almost always, I believe, to ~~nervousness~~ , to fear, to resentment, to anger, to these emotions that God desires us to rid ourselves of. And so it is God's will that we should examine ourselves whether we are really in the faith. Examine ourselves whether we are really putting God first and really trying to serve Him to the utmost, or whether we are letting the human feelings, and the unChristian feelings that can easily get into our hearts upset our lives. We may not show them, they may not appear in our faces, in our words, in our actions, but if those things are in our minds; if this resentment, if any kind of resentment is their if any kind of jealousy, if any kind of anger against other Christians, it can upset our minds, our emotions. It can ruin our testimony to the Lord.