



Quieting Quarreling Christians

James 4:1-12

In this two part message, we want to identify why Christians have conflicts and then show how all conflicts can be resolved.

Conflict can bring about good results, such as...

- The Character of Conflicts: James 4:1
 - Some are long term battles: **quarrels**
 - Some are short term skirmishes: **conflicts**:

- The Cause of our Conflicts: James 4:1
 - They come from “**pleasures**” we pursue that “**wage war**” in our lives. II Corinthians 10:3-5
 - ✓ Pleasures may seem desirable. Genesis 3:6
 - ✓ Pleasures may control my life. Titus 3:3

- The Consequences of our Conflicts: James 4:2-4
 - Strangle any spiritual growth. Luke 8:14
 - Destroy more relationships with others. “**commit murder...fight and quarrel**”
 - Create a hostility with God.

- The Cure for our Conflicts. James 4:5-12
 - Start with Spirit led power. Vs. 5
 - Grow in “**greater grace**,” from God and for others, out of humility. Vs. 6
Proud=
(See Digging Deeper)

Digging Deeper in James 4:1-6

In this two part message, we are taking a closer look at the problem with conflicts in the church. You would think that believers who all love Jesus would not have any conflicts. And yet, they are all too frequent.

Look up the following passages and identify the many kinds of conflicts that can occur in the church. Identify any that you are presently dealing with and are in need of prayer.

James 5:1-6

I Corinthians 11:17-22

Acts 15:36-41

Philippians 4:1-3

II Corinthians 7:5

Luke 9:46-48

I Corinthians 6:1-8

Galatians 5:14, 15

The real struggle for conflicts comes out of a heart of pride. That is why James emphasizes the importance of God's "greater grace" for He opposes the proud but gives grace to the humble.

Why do you think God's grace and a humble heart can help you in a conflict?

In a kind of self evaluation, answer the following questions about yourself. Read the passage of scripture and write out what God says about that aspect of pride in the question.

The Greek word for **proud** gives a good literal definition of that concept. It is HUPERĒPHANOS: made of two words, **huper=over** and **phainomai= to appear**, Therefore, to appear over or above someone. It is the idea of being "one up" on another person. It has the idea of denoting pre-eminent position or power.

Proud people look for their own power. Are you looking for power for yourself or God's power?

Read Ezekiel 33:28. If you have pride, what will God do to your power?

Proud people are consumed by temporal things, like appearance, to bolster their ego. Are you?

Read II Corinthians 5:12. What should you not have pride in?

Read II John 2:15-17. Why should you not have pride in things of this world?

Proud people have a hard time loving others properly. What kind of love do you have compared to the following verse?

Read I Corinthians 13:4. What is the nature of true selfless love? How do you compare in your relationships?

Proud people have a hard time submitting to authority. Is that a struggle for you?

Read I Peter 5:5-7. Where should you submit your life?
What can happen to proud people who cannot submit to God according to vs. 7?

Numbers 12:3 describes Moses as the most humble man in the world. That is a pretty strong statement.

What is the context or circumstances of us being told that Moses is “humble?”

Why do you think God chose this situation to declare the humility of Moses?

Use the chart below and evaluate your own life. In Numbers 12, Miriam, Aaron and Moses are in conflict. There is nothing too surprising about brothers and sister in a fight; but, God’s response is a strong discipline of them. Which person in this story best describes your heart of either pride or humility in a conflict?

Pride of Aaron and Miriam	Humility of Moses
Critical spirit--focus on other’s faults Vs. 1	Faithful spirit--focus on what God has called me to do. Vs. 7
Spirit of entitlement—focus on my rights Vs. 2	Humble spirit—wave any rights as Moses remained silent in face of attack. Vs. 3
I pursue my own power, position, prestige, pleasure or possessions, no matter the cost. Vs. 2	I serve at the Lord’s pleasure, by His power and His position of calling. Vs. 6
I am quick to anger, quick to speak and try to control a situation I do not like. Vs. 2	I am slow to anger, slow to speak, willing to listen and trust in God’s control of each situation. Vs. 3, 4
I have no fear of God when criticizing or in conflict with another person. I see no need to reconcile. Vs. 8	I fear God and willingly try to help others in need, even those who hurt me. My desire is healing and reconciliation. Vs. 13



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