



Quieting Quarreling Christians - Part II

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.

(From last message)

- 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
- The Consequences of our Conflicts: James 4:2-4
 - Strangle my spiritual growth and destroy my relationships.
“**commit murder...fight and quarrel**” Luke 8:14
- **The Cure for our Conflicts. James 4:5-12**
But He gives a “greater grace”...James 4:6

Grow in “greater grace” with God:

- Choose to submit to God and resist the devil. James 4:7
- Draw near to God and He will draw near to you by cleansing your life. James 4:8
 - Exodus 30:18-21 Cleanse your hands.
 - Isaiah 6:5-7 Cleanse your lips.
 - James 4:8 Cleanse your heart and mind.

Grow in “greater grace” with others:

- Remove any obstacle which may hinder healing. James 4:9
Be miserable, mourn, weep...
- Humble yourself to God’s control of any relationships. James 4:10; Numbers 12
Humble yourselves in the presence of God...
- Do not speak against or judge another. James 4:11, 12
Do not speak against one another...who are you who judge your neighbor?

Digging Deeper in James 4:1-12

The Cure for Conflicts begins with a spiritual intimacy with God. That is James' first priority in James 4 when addressing their quarrels and conflicts. Our vertical relationship with God must be our priority, no matter who we think is at fault in a conflict.

There are two spiritual powers at work in the world today. What are they according to James 4:7? Satan is the god of this world. I John 5:19

In James 4:4, what happens if you try to be a friend of both the world and God? Are you trying to have it both ways in your life? If so, how does God view you?

We are called to “**resist the devil and he will flee from you.**” We are not defenseless. Ephesians 6:10-12 says, “**10 Finally, be strong in the Lord and in the strength of His might. 11 Put on the full armor of God, so that you will be able to stand firm against the schemes of the devil. 12 For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the powers, against the world forces of this darkness, against the spiritual forces of wickedness in the heavenly places.**”

This is why James 4:1 teaches that conflicts come from pleasures that “**wage war.**” We are in a battle. Use the following chart to assess your areas of weakness, strength and need for growth to resist the devil. Which should you pray for now?

<i>Take up the full armor of God...</i>	Areas To Resist the Devil and protect yourself.
<i>With the belt of truth</i> Ephesians 6:14	Resist lies about God and His Word Resist lies about how wrong sin is and how bad its consequences are. Genesis 3:1-5
<i>Put on the breastplate of righteousness.</i> Ephesians 6:14	Resist my heart being closed to another person and becoming hateful to them. I John 3:10, 17
<i>Shod your feet with the preparation of the gospel of peace.</i> Ephesians 6:15	Resist against anger for the person and anxiety about the outcome. Ephesians 4:26, 27; I Peter 5:7, 8
<i>Take up the shield of faith.</i> Ephesians 6:16	Resist having doubts that God does care about me and will provide for me. Genesis 3:1; Luke 10:38-42; Joshua 1:8, 9
<i>Take the helmet of salvation.</i> Ephesians 6:17	Resist against feelings of discouragement in this life and loss of hope for eternal life. I Thessalonians 5:8, 9; John 3:16
<i>Take the sword of the Spirit, Word of God.</i> Ephesians 6:17	Resist any question that the power of God's Word can shape my heart into Jesus and His desires, will, love and grace. Hebrews 4:12, 13

As we submit to God and resist the devil, then we can draw near to God fully when we are cleansed from all sin. **James 4:8.** No more “**double-minded**” ways. We are fully owned by God.

James was writing to Jewish believers, so use the following Jewish prayer of atonement to evaluate your own life and any areas in need of confession and cleansing.

*For the sin which we have committed before You of our own will,
And for the sin which we have committed before You by hardening our hearts,*

**For the sin which we have committed before You unknowingly,
And for the sin we have committed before You openly or secretly.**

*For the sin which we have committed before You knowingly and deceitfully,
And for the sin which we have committed before You in speech,*

**For the sin which we committed before You by wronging a neighbor,
And for the sin which we have committed before You by sinful meditation of the heart,**

*For the sin which we have committed before You by association with impurity,
And for the sin which we have committed before You by spurning parents and teachers,*

**For the sin which we have committed before You in presumption or in error,
And for the sin which we have committed before You by violence,**

*For the sin which we have committed before You by the profanation of Your name,
And for the sin which we have committed before You by unclean lips,*

**For the sin which we have committed before You by impure speech,
And for the sin which we have committed before You by evil inclination,**

*For the sin which we have committed before You wittingly or unwittingly,
For all these O God of forgiveness, forgive us, pardon us, and grant us atonement through Jesus Christ.*

**For the sin which we committed before You by denying and lying,
And for the sin which we committed before You by bribery,**

*For the sin which we committed before You by scoffing,
And for the sin which we committed before You by slander,*

**For the sin which we committed before You in commerce,
And for the sin which we have committed before You in eating and drinking.**

*For the sin which we have committed before You by asking usurious interest,
And for the sin which we have committed before You by stretching forth the neck in pride.*

**For the sin which we have committed before You by gossip,
And for the sin which we have committed before You with wanton looks,**

*For the sin which we have committed before You with haughty eyes,
And for the sin which we have committed before You by effrontery,*

For all these, O God of forgiveness, forgive us, pardon us, and grant us atonement through Jesus Christ.

*For the sin which we have committed before You by rejecting Your commandments,
And for the sin which we have committed before You by perverting justice,*

**For the sin which we have committed before You by ensnaring our neighbor,
And for the sin which we have committed before You by levity,**

*For the sin which we have committed before You by being stiff-necked,
And for the sin which we have committed before You by running to do evil,*

**For the sin which we have committed before You by tale bearing,
And for the sin which we have committed before You by swearing falsely,**

*For the sin which we have committed before You by causeless hatred;
And for the sin which we have committed before You by breach of trust,*

**And for the sin which we have committed before You by confusion of values,
For all these, O God of forgiveness, forgive us, pardon us, and grant us atonement through Jesus Christ.**

Once we have submitted to God and drawn near to Him in holiness, then we can consider the person we may have a conflict with in **James 4:9-12**.

James 4:9 says to be “*miserable*” which seems rather strange. Actually, “*miserable*” is a term used for an army whose food is gone and they have no shelter from a storm. James is asking for a voluntary abstinence from anything that may hinder the priority of reaching out to another person. We should take restoration as a very serious matter as he calls us to “*mourn*” and “*weep*.” The other person may be totally at fault, but we must strip away anything we may have done or said which would interfere from healing the relationship.

James 4:10 calls us to be humble before God and let Him control the situation and person we cannot. Read **Numbers 12:1-15**. How did Moses respond, or not respond, to reflect his humility in vs. 3?

How did God respond?

What did James 4:10 say God would do for the “*humble*” person? Therefore, why is “humility” the better way?

What are you **not to do** according to **James 4:11, 12**?

Confess here any relationships where you have not obeyed these verses. Ask for God’s cleansing and healing work in your life and the area of conflict. Pray for a healing of that relationship now and let God change you and trust Him to change the other person.



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