

True Faith Works on Our Conflicts

- I. Why we _____ (James 4:1-3).
 - A. Our internal struggle with _____ and _____ leads to external strife with each other (James 4:1).
 - B. Our unmet, corrupted _____ lead us to harm those around us (James 4:2a).
- II. Why we _____ (James 4:2b-3).
 - A. Because of our faithless _____ (4:2b).
 - B. Because of our shameless _____ (James 4:3).
- III. How we fight (James 4:1-2, 3:15-16, 4:11).
 - A. Tragically, we fight other brothers _____ the body of Christ (James 4:1a).
 - B. Our fights bring all kinds of un-Christlike, worldly, fleshly, demonic _____ to our lives and churches (3:14-16).
- IV. The _____ fight (James 4:4-5).
- V. Making it _____ (James 4:6-10).

Additional Notes:



Diving Deeper in Scripture Together

Questions for Discussion & Reflection

James 4:1-10

1. What are some of the things you have fought over? Why do you think this might have been? What does James 4 reveal about the root cause of these fights?
2. James 4 reveals that our external strife with each other is caused by what internal factor?
3. Verse 4 says that fights are caused by our “passions” within us – this is the same root word as “hedonism” and is negative in all 3 locations in Scripture (Luke 8:14, Titus 3:3, James 4:1 & 3, 2 Peter 2:13). What differentiates these pleasures from good pleasures that God designed for us to enjoy? How can you differentiate the pleasures in your life?
4. Are there particular pleasures which you find yourself thinking over, pursuing, dreaming of – at any and all times, to the minimizing of other passions and pleasures? “What pleasure am I trying to obtain or protect? Does that pleasure have a grip on my heart that only God ought to have?”
5. What does James reveal about the results of our unmet, corrupted cravings?
6. Do you have unmet desires that frustrate you? Do you dream of revenge or slandering someone? Have you ever actually done it? How does Ephesians 4:1-3 encourage us?
7. Why do we lack (2 reasons given in James 4:2-3)?
8. “Prayer is where God’s power is brought to bear.” So, when it comes to prayer, where are you? Do you have a time of regular prayer with other brothers and sisters?
9. When you face a struggle in your life, to whom do you turn for answers – doctors, counselors, advisors, friends, or to God in prayer?

10. Why does James address his readers as “adulterous” when he is just discussing quarrels and petty desires? (Compare James 3:14-16 and James 4:4-5)
11. Read James 4:6-10 and consider the commands in these verses and how you can put these into action in your life.
12. What is verse 9 calling for when it asks us to be wretched, mourn and stop laughing? Read 2 Corinthians 7:10.