

**James 4:7b** "... Resist the devil, and he will flee from you."

**Matthew 4:11** "Then the devil left Him and angels came and attended Him."

### **C. Come near to God.**

**James 4:8** "Come near to God and He will come near to you. Wash your hands you sinners and purify your hearts, you double-minded."

**James 4:9** "Grieve, mourn, and wail. Change your laughter to mourning and your joy to gloom."

### **D. Humble yourself before God!**

**James 4:10** "Humble yourselves before the Lord, and He will lift you up."

**Colossians 3:1b** "... set our heart on things above where Christ is seated at the right hand of God. <sup>[2]</sup> Set our mind on things above, not on earthly things."

## **How to Deal with Conflicts?**

**James 4:1-10**

**Lesson #8**

**6/30/24**

### **I. There are conflicts among believers.**

#### **A. Sometimes we fight.**

**\*\*James 4:1a** "What causes fights and quarrels among you? ...."

**Matthew 24:6** "You will hear of wars and rumors of wars, but see to it that you are not alarmed. Such things must happen, but the end is still to come."

#### **B. Sometimes we quarrel.**

**\*\*James 4:1a** "... and quarrels among you? ...."

**2 Corinthians 7:5** "For when we came into Macedonia, this body of ours had no rest, but we were harassed at every turn – conflicts on the outside, fears within."

**I Corinthians 1:10** "I appeal to you, brothers, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that all of you agree with one another so that there may be no divisions among you and that you may be perfectly united in mind and thought."

**I Corinthians 1:11** "My brothers, some from Chloe's household have informed me that there are quarrels among you."

**I Corinthians 3:1** "Brothers, I could not address you as spiritual but as worldly – mere infants in Christ."

**I Corinthians 3:2b** "... For since there is jealousy and quarreling among you, are you not worldly? ...."

**Galatians 5:15** "If you keep on biting and devouring each other, watch out or you will be destroyed by each other."

**Philippians 4:2** "I plead with Euodia and I plead with Syntyche to agree with each other in the Lord."

**Acts 15:39** “They had such a sharp disagreement that they parted company. Barnabas took Mark and sailed for Cyprus. <sup>[40]</sup> But Paul chose Silas and left, commended by the brothers to the grace of the Lord.”

## II. There are causes for conflicts among believers.

### A. Conflicts flowed from their inner evil desires.

**\*\*James 4:1b** “... Don't they come from your desires that battle within you?”

**2 Timothy 3:2** “People will be lovers of themselves, lovers of money, boastful, proud, abusive, disobedient to their parents, ungrateful, unholy, <sup>[3]</sup> Without love, unforgiving, slanderous, without self-control, brutal, not lovers of the good, <sup>[4]</sup> treacherous, rash, conceited, lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God.”

**\*\*James 4:2a** “You want something but don't get it ....”

### B. Conflicts were displayed by their evil behavior.

#### 1. They possessed a killer attitude.

**\*\*James 4:2b** “... You kill ....”

**Matthew 5:21** “You have heard that it was said to the people long ago, ‘Do not murder,’ and anyone who murders will be subject to judgment.”

**Matthew 5:22a** “But I tell you that anyone who is angry with his brother will be subject to judgment ....”

**1 John 3:15a** “Anyone who hates his brother is a murderer, ....”

#### 2. They pursued what they coveted.

**\*\*James 4:2c** “... and covet, but you cannot have what you want. You quarrel and fight....”

#### 3. They do not pray.

**\*\*James 4:2e** “... You do not have because you do not ask God.”

**James 1:5** “If any of you lacks wisdom, he should ask God, who gives generously to all without finding fault and it will be given to him.”

## 4. They possess wrong motives when they pray.

**\*\*James 4:3** “When you ask, you do not receive because you ask with wrong motives, that you may spend what you get on your pleasures.”

**Luke 15:13** “Not long after that, the younger son got together all he had, set off for a distant country and there squandered his wealth in wild living.” <sup>[14]</sup> After he spent everything, there was a severe famine in that whole country, and he began to be in need.”

## 5. They partner with the world.

**\*\*James 4:4** “You adulterous people, don't you know that friendship with the world is hatred toward God? Anyone who chooses to be a friend of the world becomes an enemy of God.”

**1 John 2:15** “Do not love the world or anything in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him. <sup>[16]</sup> For everything in the world – the cravings of sinful man, the lust of his eyes and the boastings of what he has and does – comes not from the Father, but from the world. <sup>[17]</sup> The world and its desires pass away, but the man who does the will of God lives forever.”

**\*\*James 4:4b** “... Anyone who chooses to be a friend of the world becomes an enemy of God.”

**\*\*James 4:5** “Or do you think Scriptures says without reason that the Spirit he caused to live in us envies intensely?”

**\*\*James 4:6** “But He gives us more grace. That is why Scripture says: God opposes the proud but gives grace to the humble.”

## III. There are cures for the conflicts mentioned by James.

### A. Submit yourself to God!

**James 4:7a** “Submit yourselves, then, to God. ....”

**Luke 2:51** “Then He went down to Nazareth with them and was obedient to them. But His mother treasured all these things in her heart.”

### B. Resist the devil.