



The Truth About Why We Fight (James 4)

May 1, 2022

Topic: Why We Fight

Text: James 4:1-3

- 1 **What causes fights and quarrels among you?** Don't they come from your desires that battle within you? 2 You desire but do not have, so you kill. You covet but you cannot get what you want, so you quarrel and fight. You do not have because you do not ask God. 3 When you ask, you do not receive, because you ask with wrong motives, that you may spend what you get on your pleasures.

I. Why We Fight

1. **We Fight Because of Personal Desires:** (Things that are important to you emotionally)

- 1 What causes fights and quarrels among you? Don't they come from your desires that battle within you?

2. **We Fight Because of Covetousness:** (Things you crave but can't have)

- 2 You desire but do not have, so you kill. You covet but you cannot get what you want, so you quarrel and fight. You do not have because you do not ask God.

3. **We Fight Because of Our Motives:** (Things that bring us pleasure, it feels good)

- 3 When you ask, you do not receive, because you ask with wrong motives, that you may spend what you get on your pleasures.

II. Signs We Are Fighting with God (James 4:1-6)

1. **Adulterous Relationships** (When we choose others over God)

- 4 You **adulterous** people, don't you know that **friendship with the world** means enmity against God? Therefore, anyone who chooses to be a friend of the world becomes an enemy of God.
- 5 Or do you think Scripture says without reason that he jealously longs for the spirit he has caused to dwell in us?

2. Our Pride

- 6 But he gives us more grace. That is why Scripture says: “God opposes the **proud** but shows favor to the humble.”

III. How to Win The Fight

- 7 **Submit** yourselves, then, to God. **Resist** the devil, and he will flee from you. 8 **Come near to God** and he will come near to you. **Wash** your hands, you sinners, and **purify your hearts**, you double-minded. 9 **Grieve**, mourn and wail. **Change** your laughter to mourning and your joy to gloom. 10 **Humble** yourselves before the Lord, and he will lift you up.

1. Submit
2. Resist
3. Come near
4. Wash
5. Purify your hearts
6. Grieve (over the bad things)
7. Change (whoever necessary)
8. Humble (Allow yourself to be taught)

IV. Two Negative Ways We Fight (James 4:11-12)

11 Brothers and sisters do not **slander** one another. Anyone who speaks against a brother or sister or **judges** them speaks against the law and judges it. When you judge the law, you are not keeping it, but sitting in judgment on it. 12 There is only one Lawgiver and Judge, the one who is able to save and destroy. But you—who are you to judge your neighbor?

1. We fight with slander
2. We fight with judgements



Closing

Four Personal Closing Thoughts About Fighting

1. Fighting reveals where we really are
2. Fighting reveals what we really value
3. Fighting reveals what we really want
4. Fighting reveals the truth about our relationship with God

Next Time: New Series: Are You Truly Living a Sustainable Life?

Four Things That Are Not Sustainable

1. **Growth Without Decline** (Ecclesiastes 3, Managing the Up's and Downs)
2. **Economic Success Without a Decline** (You must manage both)
3. **Hope Deferred** (Proverbs 13:12, Managing Disappointment)
4. **Lies That Hide the Truth** (Luke 8:17-18, Managing Lies that can Deceive You)