



# The Book of James

James 1:22

Do not merely listen to the word, and so deceive yourselves. Do what it says.

James 3:10-11  
Out of the same mouth  
come praise and cursing.  
My brothers, this should not be.

Submit yourselves, then, to God.  
Resist the devil,  
and he will flee from you.

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James 2:18-19

Is any one of you sick?  
He should call the elders of the church  
to pray over him  
and anoint him with oil  
in the name of the Lord

Submit yourselves, then, to God.  
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How much more your faith without deeds,  
will show you my faith?

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James 5:14  
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Consider it pure joy, my brothers,  
whenever you face trials of many kinds,  
because you know that the testing of your faith develops perseverance.

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and I will show you my faith by what I do.

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# Conflict & its Cure



**JAMES 4:1-12**

# Introduction



- Wars are not a sign of the end of time, but of life as usual in a world given to conflict.
- We are never surprised to hear of violence
- What leads to conflict and what is the cure?

# The Source of Conflict, 4:1-3



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

# Selfishness is the source of conflict



- *Passion* or evil desire promotes conflict
  - A slave to passion is always at war with someone
  - Everyone is a potential competitor
  
- There can be a war within us
  - James 3:2, the tongue against the body
  - Rom. 7:21, Paul's struggle to do the right thing
  - 1 Pet. 2:11, fleshly lusts war against the soul

# Unworthy goals lead to unethical behavior



- *“Men frequently seek to climb up in the world over the bodies of those they have pulled down.”*  
--Guy N. Woods
- *“When men live merely to satisfy their desires, they never realize their goal.”*  
--J.W. Roberts

# You don't have because you don't ask



- Some go lacking because they fail to ask God
- Ephesians 3:20 refers to God as... “him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine”
- Let us come to God for our legitimate needs
- 7"Ask and it will be given to you; seek and you will find; knock and the door will be opened to you. 8For everyone who asks receives; he who seeks finds; and to him who knocks, the door will be open

--Matthew 7:7-8

# God does not grant *all* our requests



- Don't ask with a *wicked motive*, Prov. 28:9
- Don't pray with a *selfish* motive
  - Some ask for a good thing for a wrong reason
  - God is not likely to give us things to waste
- Our prayers reveal the character of our heart

# Friendship with the World, 4:4-6



- 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. 5 Or do you think Scripture says without reason that the spirit he caused to live in us envies intensely? 6 But he gives us more grace. That is why Scripture says:  
"God opposes the proud  
but gives grace to the humble."

# Friendship with the world is hatred toward God



- Those who are unfaithful to the Lord are spiritual adulterers
  - The church is the bride of Christ
  - “Don’t you know?..” indicates loss of ability to see sin for what it is
- Worldliness begins as a state of mind
  - Whoever chooses friendship with the world is an enemy of God
  - Consorting with the enemy *makes us* the enemy



- 30" He who is not with me is against me, and he who does not gather with me scatters.

--Matt. 12:30

- 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.

--1 John 2:15

# The human spirit tends toward envy



- James 2:5 asks– “Or do you think Scripture says without reason that the spirit he caused to live in us envies intensely?”
  - God knows our nature and warns us about ourselves!
    - God’s grace enables us to rule our spirit
    - Consider Cain’s bitter failure to rule his spirit
- 7 If you do what is right, will you not be accepted?  
But if you do not do what is right, sin is crouching at  
your door; it desires to have you, but you must  
master it.”
- Genesis 4:7

# Submit to God, 4:7-10



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

# The cure for conflict



- Submission to God will cure conflict within us and prevent conflict with others
  - I cannot control everyone, perhaps not *anyone* else
  - I can control *myself*, and I must!
  - I may *influence* others with proper attitude and actions
  - The best way to stop an argument is to stop my end of it

# Resist the devil



- He will flee when we resist
- Beware, but resist:
- 8Be self-controlled and alert. Your enemy the devil prowls around like a roaring lion looking for someone to devour. 9Resist him, standing firm in the faith, because you know that your brothers throughout the world are undergoing the same kind of sufferings.

--1 Peter 5:8-9

- Refuse his temptations!

# Come Near to God



- We are to come near to God in--
  - purity: Matt. 5:8
  - penitence: 2 Cor. 7:10
  - humility: Prov. 3:34
  
- When we come to God in this way--
  - we will know his forgiveness and favor
  - we will worship him in spirit and in truth
  - we will know the true meaning of peace

# Do not Slander, 4:11-12



- 11 Brothers, do not slander one another. Anyone who speaks against his brother or judges him 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?

# Don't Wage a War of Words



- Slander is character assassination
  - We're never made better by making someone else look worse
- 14The entire law is summed up in a single command: "Love your neighbor as yourself." 15If you keep on biting and devouring each other, watch out or you will be destroyed by each other.

Gal. 5:14-15

# Conclusion...



- Let us make peace with God, self, and others
- Let us practice and preach the gospel of peace
- Do you need to submit to God by obedience to the gospel?
- Do you need to come back to God through repentance, confession and prayer for forgiveness?