

## James 4

### I. The root of wars and fighting. Vs. 1-3

A. What starts a war or a fight? Vs. 1

B. Lust that is in you. Vs. 1

(Lust means to turn upon a thing for, have a strong physical desire for, long for, to covet for, or to seek things forbidden for your pleasure. To have your own way.)

Jeremiah 17:9

“The heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately wicked: who can know it?”

Mark 7:21-23

“For from within, out of the heart of men, proceed evil thoughts, adulteries, fornications, murders,

22 Thefts, covetousness, wickedness, deceit, lasciviousness, an evil eye, blasphemy, pride, foolishness:

23 All these evil things come from within, and defile the man.”

1 Peter 2:11

“Dearly beloved, I beseech you as strangers and pilgrims, abstain from fleshly lusts, which war against the soul;”

Romans 7:23

“But I see another law in my members, warring against the law of my mind, and bringing me into captivity to the law of sin which is in my members.”

Galatians 5:17

“For the flesh lusteth against the Spirit, and the Spirit against the flesh: and these are contrary the one to the other: so that ye cannot do the things that ye would.”

1. You lust and have not, because you ask not. Vs. 2

2. You ask and receive not, because you ask amiss. Vs. 3

3. You ask that you might feed your lust. Vs. 3

Eugene Peterson translated James 4:1-3 this way: "Where do you think all these appalling wars and quarrels come from? Do you think they just happen? Think again. They come about because you want your own way, and fight for it deep inside yourselves. You lust for what you don't have and are willing to kill to get it. You want what isn't yours and will risk violence to get your hands on it. You wouldn't think of just asking God for it, would you? And why not? Because you know you'd be asking for what you have no right to. You're spoiled children, each wanting your own way."

II. Results of being a friend of the world. Vs. 4

A. You have committed adultery against God by being a friend of the world. Vs. 4

B. You become an enemy of God by being a friend of the world. Vs. 4

III. Pride. Vs. 5-10

A. The Holy Spirit that is in you will not cause you to lust and envy. Vs. 5

B. God resisteth the proud and gives grace to the humble. Vs. 6

1 Peter 5:5

"Likewise, ye younger, submit yourselves unto the elder. Yea, all of you be subject one to another, and be clothed with humility: for God resisteth the proud, and giveth grace to the humble."

C. Submit yourselves to God. Vs. 7

Matthew 11:28-30

"Come unto me, all ye that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest.

29 Take my yoke upon you, and learn of me; for I am meek and lowly in heart: and ye shall find rest unto your souls.

30 For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light.”

1. Then you can resist the devil, and he will flee from you. Vs. 7

1 Peter 5:8-9

“Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour:

9 Whom resist stedfast in the faith, knowing that the same afflictions are accomplished in your brethren that are in the world.”

Revelation 12:9-12

“And the great dragon was cast out, that old serpent, called the Devil, and Satan, which deceiveth the whole world: he was cast out into the earth, and his angels were cast out with him.

10 And I heard a loud voice saying in heaven, Now is come salvation, and strength, and the kingdom of our God, and the power of his Christ: for the accuser of our brethren is cast down, which accused them before our God day and night.

11 And they overcame him by the blood of the Lamb, and by the word of their testimony; and they loved not their lives unto the death.

12 Therefore rejoice, ye heavens, and ye that dwell in them.

Woe to the inhabitants of the earth and of the sea! for the devil is come down unto you, having great wrath, because he knoweth that he hath but a short time.”

D. Draw nigh to God. Vs. 8

1. God will draw nigh to you. Vs. 8

E. Cleanse your hands, you sinners. Vs. 8

F. Purify your hearts, you double minded. Vs. 8

Isaiah 55:6-7

“Seek ye the LORD while he may be found, call ye upon him while he is near:

7 Let the wicked forsake his way, and the unrighteous man his thoughts: and let him return unto the LORD, and he will have mercy upon him; and to our God, for he will abundantly pardon.”

G. Be serious about your actions. Vs. 9

Matthew 5:4

“Blessed are they that mourn: for they shall be comforted.”

H. Humble yourselves before God. Vs. 10

1. God will lift you up. Vs. 10

IV. Do not judge one another. Vs. 11-12

A. What happens when you speak evil of someone and judge them?  
Vs. 11

1. You are judging the law. Vs. 11

2. You make yourself a judge. Vs. 11

B. There is one lawgiver. Vs. 12

Isaiah 33:22

“For the LORD is our judge, the LORD is our lawgiver, the LORD is our king; he will save us.”

1. He is able to save and to destroy. Vs. 12

C. Who are you to judge someone?

V. Boasting about tomorrow is evil. Vs. 13-6

A. Be careful about making detailed plans for tomorrow. Vs.13

B. You do not know what tomorrow will be. Vs. 14

C. Your life is a vapor. Vs. 14

Luke 12:16-20

“And he spake a parable unto them, saying, The ground of a certain rich man brought forth plentifully:

17 And he thought within himself, saying, What shall I do, because I have no room where to bestow my fruits?

18 And he said, This will I do: I will pull down my barns, and build greater; and there will I bestow all my fruits and my goods.

19 And I will say to my soul, Soul, thou hast much goods laid up for many years; take thine ease, eat, drink, and be merry.

20 But God said unto him, Thou fool, this night thy soul shall be required of thee: then whose shall those things be, which thou hast provided?”

1 Peter 1:24

“For all flesh is as grass, and all the glory of man as the flower of grass. The grass withereth, and the flower thereof falleth away:”

D. You ought to say, If the Lord will, we shall live, and do this or that.  
Vs. 15

E. Boasting about tomorrow is evil. Vs. 16

VI. It is a sin to know to do good and not do it. Vs. 17