

The Source of Conflicts

James 4:1-3

Grace Church

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James 4:1-3

I. Self versus self is at the heart of all relational conflicts.

James 4:1

- James' point is, don't look elsewhere for the source of your conflicts--**Look within!**
- James is saying that you will not resolve conflict until you correctly identify the source of it.

II. The enemy dwells within us.

James 4:1

- The enemy dwells within your heart.

- The enemy poses as a friendly ally, but **never delivers** on his promises.

James 4:2

- The bottom line of seeking your own way is always, “**you do not have.**”

III. Your prayer life (or lack of) reveals the **focus of your heart.**

James 4:2b-3

Three implications here:

- If you do not pray, it shows that your focus is not properly toward God.

- If you pray selfishly, it shows that you are trying to use God for your purposes, rather than seeking His purposes.

James 4:3

Matt. 6:10

- To receive from God, ask with the **proper motives**.

IV. The first step to resolve conflicts with others is to judge your own selfish focus.

- If you do not judge and put to death your sinful, selfish desires, you will have war.

“The ultimate choice in life lies between pleasing oneself and pleasing God; and a world in which men’s first aim is to please themselves is a battleground of savagery and division.” - William Barclay

- The decision to judge your own selfish focus is not optional for believers.

Luke 9:23

Luke 9:24

V. Conclusion

- The way to resolve conflict with others is to wage war against the powerful forces that are waging war in your soul!



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