

## PRESSURE POINTS: Fighting & Friending

Andy Deane · 10/13/2024 · James 4:1-10

*James 4:1-3, 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.*

### What causes ungodly fights?

- We normally would answer: it's them, what they did to me!
- James shows us the real source is: us, and our misplaced desires, and how bad desires lead to bad places!
  - Jesus shows us how our internal desires themselves can be sin before any actions — Matthew 5:22; 28, 22 ... *anyone who is angry with a brother or sister will be subject to judgment. Again, anyone who says to a brother or sister, 'Raca,' is answerable to the court. And anyone who says, 'You fool!' will be in danger of the fire of hell...28...anyone who looks at a woman lustfully has already committed adultery with her in his heart.*
- So what do we do? We must deal with the root cause of sin — our desires! Three verses show how we do this:
  - WALK: Galatians 5:16-17, *So I say, walk by the Spirit, and you will not gratify the desires of the flesh. For the flesh desires what is contrary to the Spirit, and the Spirit what is contrary to the flesh. They are in conflict with each other, so that you are not to do whatever you want.*
  - AGREE: Amos 3:3, *Do two walk together unless they have agreed to do so?*
  - YOKE: Matthew 11:29-30, *Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy and my burden is light."*
- Why don't I have what I desire?
  - This passage shows the answer is both "no prayer" and "selfish prayer."
  - What's the cure? Start praying kingdom minded prayers daily!
  - The purpose of prayer isn't to persuade a reluctant God to do our will. It's to align our will with His.

*James 4:4-5, 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?*

### What do ungodly fights reveal?

- An idolatrous love (we are called adulterous!) Because of our friendship with the world (that needs explaining).
  - A saving friendship with the world is befriending the lost for the purpose of their salvation (Ma. 11:19; Ja. 2:8).
  - A sinful friendship with the world is loving the world system despite its rebellion against God's heart and plans.
- Idolatry (loving the creation more than the creator) breaks our "marriage" covenant with God.
- Our loyalties: we can't both be friends of the sinful world's system which fights against God, & friends with God.
- Matthew 6:24, *No one can serve two masters...you will be devoted to the one and despise the other.*

*James 4:6-10, 6 But he gives us more grace. That is why Scripture says: "God opposes the proud but shows favor to the humble." 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.*

### How do you stop ungodly fights?

- Friendship with God! The cost is our humility (James 4:6; 10; Isaiah 55:1-3)
- "If he were a tyrant it might be courageous to resist, but since he is a Father it is ungrateful to rebel." (Spurgeon)
- How does this stop fights? As God's friends, we receive: favor, purpose, victory, presence, purity, and heart!

### Reflect on these questions this week:

- What is an inappropriate desire you have, that you need to replace with a godly one?
- What would it look like to "break up" with your friendship with this sinful world?
- What's one thing you can do this week to grow in your friendship with God?