

Conflicting Faith

James 4:1-10

**Should A Christian
Cause Conflict In
The Church?**

James 4:8

Draw nigh to God, and he will draw nigh to you. Cleanse your hands, ye sinners; and purify your hearts, ye double minded.

James is saying that there are lost people in the church

**They cause conflict within the church
because they have a conflict within
because they have a conflict with God**

This passage is therefore to reprove faithlessness.

2 Timothy 3:2-5

2 For men shall be lovers of their own selves, covetous, boasters, proud, blasphemers, disobedient to parents, unthankful, unholy,

3 Without natural affection, trucebreakers, false accusers, incontinent, fierce, despisers of those that are good,

4 Traitors, heady, highminded, lovers of pleasures more than lovers of God;

5 Having a form of godliness, but denying the power thereof: from such turn away.

I. The Source of Conflict (4:1-6)

James 4:1-6

1 From whence come wars and fightings among you? come they not hence, even of your lusts that war in your members?

2 Ye lust, and have not: ye kill, and desire to have, and cannot obtain: ye fight and war, yet ye have not, because ye ask not.

3 Ye ask, and receive not, because ye ask amiss, that ye may consume it upon your lusts.

4 Ye adulterers and adulteresses, know ye not that the friendship of the world is enmity with God? whosoever therefore will be a friend of the world is the enemy of God.

I. The Source of Conflict (4:1-6)

James 4:1-6 - continued

5 Do ye think that the scripture saith in vain, The spirit that dwelleth in us lusteth to envy?

6 But he giveth more grace. Wherefore he saith, God resisteth the proud, but giveth grace unto the humble.

Satan has no greater joy than to introduce your innate desire for pleasure with the pleasures of this world.

I. The Source of Conflict (4:1-6)

A. Conflict with others (v 1)

“From whence come wars and fightings *among you*?”

Wars (polemos) = serious disputes

Fightings (mache) = specific fights

Where are the conflicts? – In the church

Conflict within the church is not and will never be God’s will or plan.

John 13:34-35

34 A new commandment I give unto you, That ye love one another; as I have loved you, that ye also love one another.

35 By this shall all men know that ye are my disciples, if ye have love one to another.

I. The Source of Conflict (4:1-6)

Colossians 3:12-14

- 12 Put on therefore, as the elect of God, holy and beloved, bowels of mercies, kindness, humbleness of mind, meekness, longsuffering;
- 13 Forbearing one another, and forgiving one another, if any man have a quarrel against any: even as Christ forgave you, so also do ye.
- 14 And above all these things put on charity, which is the bond of perfectness.

I. The Source of Conflict (4:1-6)

Ephesians 4:2-6

2 With all lowliness and meekness, with longsuffering, forbearing one another in love;

3 Endeavouring to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace.

4 There is one body, and one Spirit, even as ye are called in one hope of your calling;

5 One Lord, one faith, one baptism,

6 One God and Father of all, who is above all, and through all, and in you all.

I. The Source of Conflict (4:1-6)



Saved or Lost

Romans 16:17

Now I beseech you, brethren, mark them which cause divisions and offences contrary to the doctrine which ye have learned; and avoid them.

I. The Source of Conflict (4:1-6)

B. Conflict with self (4:2 – 3)

1. Self – gratification (v 2a)

Lust (*epithuneo*) = the desire to possess at all cost what the flesh craves

2. Self – centeredness (v 2b)

Desire to have (*zelon*) = covet

to want what someone else possesses;

to envy what others have so that the focus will be on you instead of on them

I. The Source of Conflict (4:1-6)

B. Conflict with self (4:2 – 3) - continued

3. Self – sufficiency (v 2c)

**ye ask not - genuinely believe they can handle
themselves without God's assistance**

Ephesians 2:8-9

**8 For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not
of yourselves: it is the gift of God:**

9 Not of works, lest any man should boast.

I. The Source of Conflict (4:1-6)

B. Conflict with self (4:2 – 3) - continued

4. Self – indulgence (v 3)

amiss (kakos) = with evil ambition

consume (dupanao) = to use up totally by squandering

Example: Prodigal Son (Luke 15:13-32)

Remember what James is saying

those that conflict with others is because

they have conflict within because

they're in conflict with God.

I. The Source of Conflict (4:1-6)

C. Conflict with God (vv 4-6)

Luke 9:23-25

23 And he said to them all, If any man will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross daily, and follow me.

24 For whosoever will save his life shall lose it: but whosoever will lose his life for my sake, the same shall save it.

25 For what is a man advantaged, if he gain the whole world, and lose himself, or be cast away?

I. The Source of Conflict (4:1-6)

C. Conflict with God (vv 4-6)

1. Hatred towards God's person (v 4)

adulterer = spiritual infidelity

world (kosmos) = the fallen spiritual order under
Satan's influence (Ephesians 2:2)

1 John 2:15-16

15 Love not the world, neither the things that are in the world. If any man love the world, the love of the Father is not in him.

16 For all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh, and the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life, is not of the Father, but is of the world.

I. The Source of Conflict (4:1-6)

C. Conflict with God (vv 4-6)

1. Hatred towards God's person (v 4)

- a. will be (boulomai) = wishes or yearns for**
- b. The desire for the world always supersedes the desire for God**
- c. How genuine is faith if anything else can out-prioritize God?**

I. The Source of Conflict (4:1-6)

C. Conflict with God (vv 4-6)

2. Hatred towards God's precepts (vv 5 – 6a)

a. Scripture saith – Old Testament principle

John 14:21-24

21 He that hath my commandments, and keepeth them, he it is that loveth me: and he that loveth me shall be loved of my Father, and I will love him, and will manifest myself to him.

22 Judas saith unto him, not Iscariot, Lord, how is it that thou wilt manifest thyself unto us, and not unto the world?

I. The Source of Conflict (4:1-6)

C. Conflict with God (vv 4-6)

2. Hatred towards God's precepts (vv 5 – 6a)

a. Scripture saith – Old Testament precepts

John 14:21-24 - continued

**23 Jesus answered and said unto him, If a man love me,
he will keep my words: and my Father will love him, and
we will come unto him, and make our abode with him.**

**24 He that loveth me not keepeth not my sayings: and the
word which ye hear is not mine, but the Father's which
sent me.**

I. The Source of Conflict (4:1-6)

C. Conflict with God (vv 4-6)

3. Hatred towards God's provision (v 6b)

Proverbs 3:34

Surely he scorneth the scorners: but he giveth grace unto the lowly.

The root of this hatred
stems from pride

II. The Solution of Conflict (4:7-10)

James 4:7-10

**7 Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil,
and he will flee from you.**

8 Draw nigh to God, and he will draw nigh to you.

**Cleanse your hands, ye sinners; and purify your hearts,
ye double minded.**

**9 Be afflicted, and mourn, and weep: let your laughter be
turned to mourning, and your joy to heaviness.**

**10 Humble yourselves in the sight of the Lord, and he
shall lift you up.**

II. The Solution of Conflict (4:7-10)

A. Submit to God (v 7a)

submit (hupotasso) = to fall into proper rank

- 1. Understand who we are in light of who He is**
- 2. Be willing to come under God's sovereign rule**
- 3. Realize we are sinners and need His help**

B. Resist the Devil (v 7b)

**Resist (anthisetmai) = to stand against in opposition
with no middle ground or compromise**

- 1. To submit to our new Lord (God) requires we resist
the will of your old Lord (Satan)**

II. The Solution of Conflict (4:7-10)

C. Draw nigh to God (v 8a)

Draw nigh – to come into close fellowship with transparent dependence

D. Cleanse your hands (v 8b)

E. Purify your heart (v 8c)

F. Be miserable (v 9)

- 1. Afflicted (talaiporeo) = utter brokenness over actions and circumstances due to sin**
- 2. Mourn – to be genuinely sorrowful**
- 3. Weep – to outwardly express your misery and conviction**

II. The Solution of Conflict (4:7-10)

G. Humble yourself (v 10)

humble (tapeinoo) to make low, unworthy

Psalm 40:1-2

1 I waited patiently for the Lord; and he inclined unto me, and heard my cry.

2 He brought me up also out of an horrible pit, out of the miry clay, and set my feet upon a rock, and established my goings.

1 John 3:21

**Beloved, if our heart condemn us not, then have
we confidence toward God.**

**What Do You Need
To Do?**

