

CAUSES of CONFLICT ~ James 4:1-3

→ Scripture Reading James 3:17-18, 4:1-3

INTRODUCTION

Acts 15:39 (NIV) They had such a SHARP DISAGREEMENT that they parted company...

1 Corinthians 1:11 (NIV) My brothers, some from Chloe's household have informed me that there are QUARRELS among you.

Philippians 4.2 (NIV) I plead with Euodia and Syntyche to AGREE with each other IN the Lord...

To suggest that this paragraph does not apply to believers is unrealistic, and it robs the passage of all its value for us. MacDonald

Self-Centered DESIRES ~ James 4:1-2

[1] What causes fights and quarrels among you? Don't they come from your **desires** that battle within you?

Titus 3:1-2 (NLT) Remind the BELIEVERS to submit to the government and its officers. They should be OBEDIENT, always ready to DO what is GOOD. [2] They must not SLANDER anyone and must avoid QUARRELING. Instead, they should be gentle and show true humility to everyone. [3] Once we, too... were misled and became slaves to many lusts and pleasures...

[2] You want something but don't get it. You kill and covet, but you cannot have what you want. You quarrel and fight....

James 3:14 ...if you harbor **bitter envy** and **selfish ambition** in your hearts...

[2] You DESIRE and do not have, SO you MURDER.
You COVET and cannot obtain, SO you fight and quarrel. (ESV)

James 4:1-2 (ESV) What causes quarrels and what causes fights among you? Is it not this, that your PASSIONS are at WAR within you? [2] You DESIRE and do not have, SO you MURDER. You COVET and cannot obtain, SO you fight and quarrel

IMPLICATIONS

→ There is DANGER in Pursuing UNGODLY DESIRES

1 Peter 2:11 (NLT) Dear friends, I warn you as temporary residents and foreigners to keep away from WORLDLY DESIRES that wage war against your very SOULS.

The reason for James's discussion of the TONGUE and WISDOM was the reality of the struggles in the church. Each person wanted their own WAY and their own ADVANTAGE. DACarson

Galatians 5:17 (NIV) For the sinful nature DESIRES what is CONTRARY to the Spirit, and the Spirit what is contrary to the sinful nature. They are in CONFLICT with each other, so that you do not do what you want.

DISTORTED MOTIVES ~ James 4:2-3

[1] What causes fights and quarrels among you? Don't they come from your desires that battle within you?

[2] You 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**. [3] When you ask, you do not receive, because you ask with wrong motives, that you may spend what you get on your pleasures.

You do NOT Have Because you...

- do NOT ASK God
- ask God with WRONG Motives
- focus only on YOURSELF when you ask

APPLICATION

➔ Prayer is NOT seeking God's APPROVAL for what we have already PLANNED to do

We Must Ask so that...

- God is HONORED
- God's Kingdom may be BUILT
- it will HELP and ENCOURAGE Others

1 John 5:14-15 (NIV) This is the confidence we have in approaching God: that if we ask anything according to HIS WILL, he hears us. [15] And if we know that He hears us - whatever we ask - we know that we have what we asked of Him.

IN PRAYER GOD...

- is not IMPRESSED by our DEMANDS
- sees past our WORDS to our HEARTS
- is not impressed by our PROMISES
- does things in His TIME and WAY
- always ANSWERS

TAKE AWAY ??

➔ We are never SATISFIED - we always want MORE MacDonald

I WANT...

- to be RIGHT
- what I WANT
- to Feel GOOD

It is so Easy to believe the LIE that...

- PLEASANT and FUN things are GOOD
- PAINFUL and HARD things are BAD

2 Corinthians 12:7-10 (NLT) ...to keep me from becoming proud, I was given a THORN in my flesh, a messenger from Satan to torment me and keep me from becoming PROUD.

[8] Three different times I BEGGED the Lord to take it away. [9] Each time he said, My GRACE is ALL you NEED. MY power works best in weakness. So now I am glad to boast about my weaknesses, so that the power of Christ can work through me.

[10] That's why I take pleasure in my WEAKNESSES, and in the INSULTS, HARDSHIPS, PERSECUTIONS, and TROUBLES that I suffer for Christ. For when I am WEAK, then I am STRONG.

James 4:1-2 (ESV) What causes quarrels and what causes fights among you? Is it not this, that your PASSIONS are at WAR within you? [2] You DESIRE and do not have, SO you MURDER. You COVET and cannot obtain, SO you fight and quarrel