

HOW TO END WARS

In James 4:1-12, James identifies the theme of three wars in which we fight, as well as three ways to stop them.

#1: AT WAR WITH EACH OTHER (4:1a, 11-12)

“What causes fights and quarrels among you?” (James 4:1a)

“If the devil can’t make you bad, he’ll certainly make you busy.” -Adrian Rogers

Since the formation of the church in Acts, the devil’s been at work stirring up dissension among believers.

Paul’s church woes!

Corinthian Church

- Competing with one another in public meetings
- Suing each other in court
 - (1 Corinthians 6:1-8; 14:23-40)

Galatian Church

- Biting and devouring one another.
 - (Galatians 5:15)

Ephesian Church

- Needed the reminder to cultivate spiritual maturity
 - (Ephesians 4:1-16)

Philippian Church

- Two women that couldn’t get along: Euodia and Syntyche
- “...help these women since they have **contended at my side** in the cause of the gospel, along with Clement and **the rest of my coworkers, whose names are in the book of life.**” (Philippians 4:3)

In James’ context, specifically in chapter 4, there are personal wars happening within the church. The saints were speaking evil of one another and judging one another.

Read John 17:20-23

“This world, for a majority of Christians, has become a playground and not a battlefield.” AW Tozer

Question 1

#2: At War with Ourselves (4:1b – 4)**[Video: Don't Blow Your Horn at Old People](#)**

“Don't they come from your desires that battle within you? You desire but do not have, so you kill. You covet but cannot get what you want, so you quarrel and fight. You do not have because you do not ask God. When you ask, you do not receive, because you ask with wrong motives, that you may spend what you get on your pleasures.” (James 4:1b-3)

The essence of SIN is this: selfishness.

“The war in the heart is helping to cause the wars in the church!” -Warren Wiersbe

Remember James 3:14,16:

“But if you are bitterly jealous and there is selfish ambition in your heart, don't cover up the truth with boasting and lying... For wherever there is jealousy and selfish ambition, there you will find disorder and evil of every kind.”

PROBLEM: “You desire but do not have, so you kill.” (4:2)

REMINDER: Jesus, “But I say...” Matthew 5:21-22

²¹ “You have heard that it was said to the people long ago, ‘You shall not murder,^[a] and anyone who murders will be subject to judgment.’ ²² But I tell you that anyone who is angry with a brother or sister^{[b][c]} will be subject to judgment. Again, anyone who says to a brother or sister, ‘Raca,’^[d] is answerable to the court. And anyone who says, ‘You fool!’ will be in danger of the fire of hell.

PROBLEM: “You covet, but you cannot get what you want, so you quarrel and fight.” (4:2)

REMINDER: The last commandment of the TEN is this: “Thou shalt not COVET.” Exodus 20:17
By breaking it, we literally break the other nine.

PROBLEM: “You do not have because you do not ask God, and when you do, you ask with wrong motives.” (4:3)

REMINDER: When our praying is wrong, our whole Christian life is wrong.

The purpose of prayer is not to get man's will done in Heaven, but to get God's will done on Earth.

“You adulterous people...” -James

Their ATTENTION, AFFECTION, and ALLEGIENCE, are NOT towards God and His people, but towards themselves.

The seven deadly sins start here: PR | DE

Question 2

#3: At War with God (4:4-10)

The root cause of every war, both internal and external is this: rebellion against God.

The beauty of Genesis 2: there was no shame.

The heartbreak of Genesis 3:

Sin → Conflict → Lawlessness

“Everyone who sins breaks the law. In fact, sin is lawlessness.” -1 John 3:4

PROBLEM: “Don’t you know that friendship with the world means enmity with God?” (James 4:4)

- “In the world, not OF the world.”
- The Rich Young Ruler, Mark 10:17-27
 - You know the commandments: ‘DO NOT MURDER, DO NOT COMMIT ADULTERY, DO NOT STEAL, DO NOT GIVE FALSE TESTIMONY, Do not defraud, HONOR YOUR FATHER AND MOTHER.’” ²⁰ And he said to Him, “Teacher, I have kept all these things from my youth.” ²¹ Looking at him, Jesus showed love to him and said to him, “One thing you lack...”
- SOLUTION: Psalm 63:1-11

PROBLEM: “Do you think that scripture says without reason that he jealously longs for the Spirit he has caused to dwell in us?” (James 4:5)

- Living for the FLESH means GRIEVING the Holy Spirit.
- Give God Full Control
- SOLUTION: Galatians 5:16-17

PROBLEM: “Resist the devil and he will flee from you.” (James 4:7)

- The devil opposes the Son of God.
- Where God wants us to be humble, he wants us to be proud.
- Where God wants us to depend on His grace, Satan wants us to depend on ourselves.

We knew these three enemies in our old life...

The world, the flesh, the devil.

In Christ, there’s freedom. Yet, the enemies still know how to attack.

How do we overcome?

Submit to God. (see Romans 12:1-2)

Draw Near to God. (see Matthew 11:28-30)

Humble Yourself Before the Lord. (see Psalm 34:18)

Question 3