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OCTOBER 18

Sermon Outline

Key Scripture

You covet but you cannot get what you want, so you quarrel and fight. Submit yourselves, then, to God.

James 4:2b, 7a

We will constantly be in conflict unless we put God first.

1. The cause for our conflict is selfishness

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

James 4:1

2. Selfishness separates us from God

You adulterous people, don't you know that friendship with the world means enmity against God?

James 4:4

3. The cure is humility

Humble yourselves before the Lord, and he will lift you up.

James 4:10

PUTTING GOD FIRST

Opening Thought

Conflict is an inevitable part of life. James teaches that the source of conflict resides in our own selfishness. We must be on guard not to fall prey to worldly desires, which are futile. Instead, we should put God first.

For personal reflection or group discussion.

- Where do you have the most conflict? (home, work, church, traffic, online, etc.)
- How would you describe hedonism? Where do you see it in our world today?

Questions to go deeper in your faith.

Read James 4:1. What does James say is at the core of our conflict?

Read James 4:4. What is friendship with the world? Why does the Lord say those who do so are “adulterers?”

Read James 4:7. What might it look like to resist the devil? What happens when we do?

Read the following verses: Proverbs 16:7, 2 Corinthians 11:2, & 1 John 2:15. What strikes you from these?

Next Steps

- How can you draw near to God this week? (see James 4:8a)
- How many times do you see reference to YOU/ YOUR in James 4:1-10? Why might that be important?