

Why Do We Have Conflict?
It's a Mad, Mad World, part 2
Pastor Craig Ferguson

Isaiah 66:2 (NLT)

The three "I's" that produce conflict

1. I desire

What is causing the quarrels and fights among you? Isn't it the whole army of evil desires at war within you? And yet the reason you don't have what you want is that you don't ask God for it... And even when you do ask, you don't get it because your whole motive is wrong—you want only what will give you pleasure.

James 4:1 & 3 (NLT)

2. I demand

You are jealous of what others have, and you can't possess it, so you fight and quarrel to take it away from them.

James 4:2b (NLT)

3. I punish

You want what you don't have, so you scheme and kill to get it.

James 4:2 (NLT)

Overcoming the self focus that produces conflict

1. Humble yourself before God

I will bless those who have humble and contrite hearts, who tremble at my word.

2. Fear God

Fear of the LORD is the foundation of true knowledge, but fools despise wisdom and discipline.

Proverbs 1:7

(NLT)

LORD, if you kept a record of our sins, who, O Lord, could ever survive? But you offer forgiveness, that we might learn to fear you.

Psalms 130:3-4 (NLT)

3. Love God

Jesus replied, " 'You must love the Lord your God with all your heart, all your soul, and all your mind.'

Matthew 22:37 (NLT)

Whom have I in heaven but you? I desire you more than anything on earth. My health may fail, and my spirit may grow weak, but God remains the strength of my heart; he is mine forever.

Psalms 73:25-26 (NLT)

4. Trust God

It is better to trust the LORD than to put confidence in people.

Psalms 118:8

(NLT)

As we know Jesus better, his divine power gives us everything we need for living a godly life. He has called us to receive his own glory and goodness! And by that same mighty power, he has

given us all of his rich and wonderful promises. He has promised that you will escape the decadence all around you caused by evil desires and that you will share in his divine nature.

2 Peter

1:3-4 (TLB)

5. Delight in God

Take delight in the LORD, and he will give you your heart's desires.

Psalm 37:4

(NLT)

Always be joyful. Keep on praying. No matter what happens, always be thankful, for this is God's will for you who belong to Christ Jesus.

1 Thessalonians 5:16-18

(NIV)