

Having Calmness Rather Than Conflict In My Relationships, Pt. 1
Sermon Outline
Sermon Series: James — Tested By Fire
Sunday, May 5, 2024
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- † James 4:1, “What is causing the quarrels and fights among you? Don’t they come from the evil desires at war within you?” (NLT).
- The word translated as “quarrels” is the Greek New Testament word [πόλεμος, polemos], where we get our English word polemic. This word is used to refer to a struggle or conflict between power groups. It was used to refer to a battle with weapons. It referred too a long, prolonged and serious disputing or combat is often translated as “war.”
 - The word translated as “fights” is the Greek New Testament word [μάχη, mache], which refers to a specific struggle without weapons. It refers to personal attacks through put downs and insults. Instead of being peacemakers as we saw last week, this church is at war with different groups in it.
- † James 4:2, “You desire and do not have, so you murder. You covet and cannot obtain, so you fight and quarrel. You do not have, because you do not ask” (ESV).
- † Matthew 5:21-22, Jesus said, You have heard that it was said to those of old, ‘You shall not murder, and whoever murders will be in danger of the judgment.’²² But I say to you that whoever is angry with his brother without a cause shall be in danger of the judgment. And whoever says to his brother, ‘Raca!’ shall be in danger of the council. But whoever says, ‘You fool!’ shall be in danger of hell fire” (NKJV).
- The Greek New Testament word translated as “angry” is [ὀργιζόμενος, orgizomenos]. It is the word from which we get our English word “orgy.” This word refers to the long-lived anger; it is the anger of the person who nurses their wrath to keep it warm; it is the anger over which a person _____, and which they will not allow to die. Jesus forbids this kind of anger because it will not forget, it refuses to be pacified, and it eventually which seeks revenge. To Jesus this type of anger is murder.
 - The Greek New Testament word translated as “brother” is [ἀδελφός, adelphos], which refers to any believer. The word translated as [ρακά, raka], in some translations is translated as insults. “Raca” is an almost untranslatable Aramaic word. The closest translation would be “_____” or “_____.” It is the attitude that one is better than another. It is that tone of voice that has that subtle put-down and blatant snobbishness.
 - In Matthew 5:22a, Jesus uses the word “Raca.” Raca” describes a _____ more than anything else. It describes the tone and sin of _____. This word has no English equivalent. In Jesus’ day, New Testament scholars say it was used a a term of malicious abuse, derision, and slander. Therefore, many translations translate “Raca” as “brainless, worthless, empty headed, blockhead and such.
 - Jesus attacks such self-confidence by charging that no one is truly innocent of _____, because the first step in murder is anger. Jesus, in His statement, is shattering our sense of _____.
- † Psalms 51:6, “Behold, You delight in truth in the inward being and You teach me wisdom in the secret heart” (ESV).
- † 1 Samuel 16:7, “But the Lord said to Samuel, “Don’t look at how handsome Eliab is or how tall he is, because I have not chosen him. God does not see the same way people see. People look at the outside of a person, but the Lord looks at the heart” (NCV).
- Murder originates in the _____, not in the _____. It starts with evil thoughts, regardless of whether or not those thoughts are brought to consummation in action.”
 - Jesus says, “Whoever call his brother a fool . . .” The Greek New Testament word translated as “fool” is [μωρός, moros]. This is where we get our English word “_____.”
- † 1 John 3:15, “Everyone who keeps hating a fellow believer is a murderer, and you know that no murderer has eternal life residing in him” (NLT).
- † Matthew 5:28, Jesus said, “But I say to you that everyone who looks at a woman with lustful intent has already committed adultery with her in his heart” (ESV).
- When there is conflict between different groups in a church, when handled wisely and biblically, it can lead that church to more _____. When they are not handled wisely and biblically it can lead that church to its _____.
- † James 1:20, “Human anger does not produce the righteousness God desires” (NLT).
- † Matthew 18:6, “But if you cause one of these little ones who trusts in Me to fall into sin, it would be better for you to have a large millstone tied around your neck and be drowned in the depths of the sea” (NLT).
- † James 4:1, “What is causing the quarrels and fights among you? Don’t they come from the evil desires at war within you?” (NLT).
- The Greek New Testament word James uses here for “evil desires” is [ἡδονή, hedone]. This is where we get our English word hedonistic, hedonism. This is the the philosophy that pleasure is the main goal of life. In everyday Greek, it literally meant “_____.”
- † 2 Timothy 3:2-4, “For people will be lovers of self, lovers of money, proud, arrogant, abusive, disobedient to their parents, ungrateful, unholy,³ heartless, unappeasable, slanderous, without self-control, brutal, not loving good,⁴ treacherous, reckless, swollen with conceit, lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God” (ESV).
- In James 4:1, the word translated as “war,” is the New Testament Greek word [στρατεύω, strateuo]. This is where we get our English word _____.

Some Modern Weapons and Strategies Use In Church Fights & Quarrels¹

1. _____ > Attacking church members from long range.
2. _____ > Ambushing the unsuspecting.
3. _____ > Well-aimed criticisms, labeling, name calling.
4. _____ > No one is immune from being hurt.
5. _____ > Ensuring that others will fail in their efforts to serve God
6. _____ > Using friendships to get potentially damaging information about others.
7. _____ > Using gossip to spread damaging information about other.
8. _____ > Freezing out an opponent by withdrawing or refusing to talk to him or her.
9. _____ > Being willing to sacrifice the church if the goals of my group are not met.

Three Attitudes James Says Is The Cause of Internal Conflicts In The Church

1. **The uncontrolled desires to have _____.**
 - † *James 4:2a*, “You desire and do not have, so you murder. You covet and cannot obtain, so you fight and quarrel . . .” (ESV).
 - The Greek New Testament word translated as “desire” is [ἐπιθυμέω, epithumeo] and it means “to _____.”
2. **The uncontrolled desires to feel _____.**
 - † *James 4:3b*, “. . . you ask with wrong motives, that you may spend what you get on your pleasures” (NIV).
 - † *1 Timothy 6:17*, “God generously gives us everything for our enjoyment” (GNT).
3. **The uncontrolled desires to be _____ & _____.**
 - † *James 4:2-3*, “You lust and do not have; so you commit murder. You are envious and cannot obtain; so you fight and quarrel. You do not have because you do not ask God. ³You ask and do not receive, because you ask with wrong motives, so that you may spend it on your pleasures” (NASB).
 - † *Proverbs 13:10*, “Pride leads to arguments” (EXB). “
 - The next time you’re in an argument, stop and ask: “_____?”

James Tells Us Two Reasons Why Our Desires Are Not Met

1. **We don’t _____ to God; instead we _____ on each other.**
 - † *James 4:2*, “You want things, but you cannot have them, so you are ready to kill; you strongly desire things, but you cannot get them, so you quarrel and fight. You do not have what you want because you do not ask God for it” (GNT).
2. **When we do pray, we pray with the _____ (James 4:2).**
 - † *Philippians 4:19*, “And my God will supply every need of yours according to His riches in glory in Christ Jesus” (ESV).
 - The lack of _____ in conflict itself is an evidence of _____.
 - † *James 4:6*, “God opposes the proud but gives grace to the humble” (ESV).
 - The Greek New Testament word James uses for “oppose” is [ἀντιτάσσω, antitasso] is a military term that refers to an army ready for battle. This word conveys the idea is that of disdainfully and arrogantly supposing oneself to be above others. The term is rendered “_____” in Romans 1:30 and 2 Timothy 3:2, and in both places is directly associated with _____.
 - † *Proverbs 6:16-19*, “There are six things the Lord hates. There are seven things he cannot stand: ¹⁷a proud look, a lying tongue, hands that kill innocent people, ¹⁸a mind that thinks up evil plans, feet that are quick to do evil, ¹⁹a witness who lies, and someone who starts arguments among families” (NCV).
 - † *Proverbs 16:5*, “Everyone who is arrogant and proud in heart is an abomination to the LORD” (ESV).
 - † *Proverbs 16:8*, “Pride comes before disaster, and arrogance before a fall” (CEB).
 - † *Proverbs 16:8*, “First pride, then the crash— the bigger the ego, the harder the fall” (MSG).

James Tells Us Two Reasons Why Humility Is Better Than Pride

1. **Humility uses the _____ to defeat the devil’s schemes/strategies.**
 - † *1 John 2:14*, “Because the Word of God abides in you, you have defeated the evil one with it” (PAR).
2. **Humility gives the greatest privilege of all — _____.**
 - † *Hebrews 4:16*, “Let us then with confidence and humility draw near to the throne of grace, that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need” (PAR).
 - † *Hebrews 4:14*, “Since then we have a great High Priest Who has passed through the heavens, Jesus, the Son of God . . .” (ESV).

¹ Life Application Bible Commentary, “James,” p. 92.