



May 31, 2026
Faith in Action - Resistance & Renewal
James 4:1-17
Pastor Mike Griffin

What causes fights and quarrels among you? Don't they come from your desires that battle within you? 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. When you ask, you do not receive, because you ask with wrong motives, that you may spend what you get on your pleasures.

You adulterous people, don't you know that friendship with the world is hatred toward God? Anyone who chooses to be a friend of the world becomes an enemy of God. Or do you think Scripture says without reason that the spirit he caused to live in us envies intensely? But he gives us more grace. That is why Scripture says:

"God opposes the proud but gives grace to the humble." (Proverbs 3:34)

Submit yourselves, then, to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you. Come near to God and he will come near to you. Wash your hands, you sinners, and purify your hearts, you double-minded. Grieve, mourn and wail. Change your laughter to mourning and your joy to gloom. Humble yourselves before the Lord, and he will lift you up.

Brothers, do not slander one another. Anyone who speaks against his brother or judges him speaks against the law and judges it. When you judge the law, you are not keeping it, but sitting in judgment on it. There is only one Lawgiver and Judge, the one who is able to save and destroy. But you--who are you to judge your neighbor?

Now listen, you who say, "Today or tomorrow we will go to this or that city, spend a year there, carry on business and make money." Why, you do not even know what will happen tomorrow. What is your life? You are a mist that appears for a little while and then vanishes. Instead, you ought to say, "If it is the Lord's will, we will live and do this or that." As it is, you boast and brag. All such boasting is evil. Anyone, then, who knows the good he ought to do and doesn't do it, sins.

Questions for Personal or Small Group Use

Opening

How would you answer James' initial question in this chapter. "What causes fights and quarrels..." in your own words?

Discussion

- What is the cause or source of fights and quarrels according to James?
- What does submission mean? What special meaning does it have for Christians? In what sense are fights & quarrels the results of not submitting ourselves to God?
- What do we learn about the internal source of conflicts vs. external sources that contribute as well?
- What does it mean for us to have "friendship with the world" (4:4)? How is friendship with the world contrasted with friendship with God? What are some signs that someone has developed an unhealthy friendship with the world?
- What else does James say is necessary in order to come to God in prayer (4:4-10)? How do each of these contribute to a humble spirit?
- What reasons does James give for not slandering or speaking against a Christian brother or sister (v. 11-12)?
- How can a proper attitude toward God (v. 12) enable us to have a proper attitude toward others?
- How is leaving judgment up to God a key action to take? How does that help us relate with our neighbor?

Application

Take a few minutes to quietly humble yourself before God. Ask him to help you become a peacemaker during the next several days.



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