

- I) V7-10 INTRO: Therefore submit to God. Resist the devil and he will flee from you
REVIEW
- II) James has been dealing with **division in the churches**
Wars (quarrels) and fights (strife) began to be commonplace
JAMES MADE IT CLEAR
- III) This kind of **behavior in the church** revealed carnality and a spiritual immaturity
This is what is called the works of the flesh as listed in Gal 5:19-21
The works of the flesh include selfish ambition, dissensions, and contentions
- IV) These kinds of works were behind the church wars that had arisen
It was something that had to be addressed or it would undermine the work
THE FACT IS
- V) Division in the church began very early in its history
DEVELOP
- VI) When the church was birthed at Pentecost, God began moving in powerful ways
Ac 2 records how Peter preached a powerful message on the Day of Pentecost
He had been baptized in the Spirit, and began to preach to the crowd
- VII) Ac 2:41 tells us around three thousand souls were saved on that day
These new believers continued steadfastly in the apostles' doctrine and fellowship, the breaking of bread, and in prayers and the result was many more people came to know Jesus
Ac 2:47 says the Lord **added to the church daily** those who were being saved
THE SPIRIT WAS MOVING POWERFULLY
- VIII) Ac 3 records how Peter and John performed a healing on a crippled man
The result of this miracle was that Peter was able to preach to the crowd
Ac 4:4 tells us that many who **heard the word believed**, and the number of the **men** came to be about **five thousand**
- IX) The church was exploding with many being saved and many miracles performed
By ch 5, opposition to the gospel arose and the apostles began to be persecuted
They were arrested, beaten, and forbidden to speak in the name of Jesus
- X) Instead of closing their mouths, they rejoiced that they suffered for Jesus
This did not stop them from preaching but energized them to continue doing so
THE BELIEVERS DREW CLOSER
- XI) The devil did not succeed by instigating persecution **from the outside**

- I) Because of this, he inspired opposition that created division **from within**
This is an age old tactic of Satan: divide and conquer
Mk 3:24-25 If a kingdom is divided against itself, that kingdom cannot stand. And if a house is divided against itself, that house cannot stand
ACTS 6 REPORTS THE FIRST DIVISION
- II) A division developed between cultural Jews and culturally Greek Jews
The division related to how widows were being treated differently
The Hellenized Jewish widows were being neglected in the daily distribution
- III) **The division** led to the formation of deacons who served in church leadership
What Satan intended for evil God used for good
It had led to the formation of better ministry to those who were in need
TWO MORE EXAMPLES
- IV) In Corinth, division became a problem Paul had to address
1 Co 1:11 It has been declared to me concerning you, my brethren, by those of Chloe's household that there are contentions (quarrels) among you
- V) In Galatia, under the influence of false teachers, division began to develop
Gal 5:15-16 But if you bite and devour one another, beware lest you be consumed by one another! I say then: Walk in the Spirit, and you shall not fulfill the lust of the flesh.
- VI) With that said, carnality and division in the church began early in its history
This divisiveness is what James is dealing with in his letter
- VII) He said that there were wars and fights among them, and he rebuked them for this
WHY
- VIII) Because love for Jesus results in unity, not divisions amongst believers
Eph 4:3 (we are to) endeavor to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace.
Ro 12:18 If it is possible, as much as depends on you, **live peaceably with all men.**
ON ONE HAND
- IX) Faith in Jesus can result in a division between friends and family
This is something that Jesus prepared His followers for
Mt 10:34-36 Do not think that I came to bring peace on earth. I did not come to bring peace but a sword. For I have come to 'set a man against his father, a daughter against her mother, and a daughter-in-law against her mother-in-law'; and 'a man's enemies will be those of his own household.

THIS IS PART OF BEING A CHRISTIAN

- I) This kind of division is between **Christians** and those who **reject Jesus**
- II) People can resent having friends leave them and then condemn their faith in Jesus
This division is the result of Christians being rejected by non believers
- III) This division is **common in the world**, but is not to be common in the church
This is not birthed by the Holy Spirit, but by the sinful flesh of man
- IV) Because of their carnality, James called them **adulterers** and **adulteresses** (V4)
This is because they had adopted the *world's system* as their standard
In doing so it revealed an unfaithful heart towards the Lord
- V) How divisions do you think occur over the church loving and serving too much?
How many divisions occur because the people are too kind, caring and forgiving
WHAT IS THE ANSWER
- V) V6 But He gives **more grace**
James pointed out that, instead of judgment God actually provides His grace
Without His grace, the church would never accomplish what it was intended to do
- VI) It is through His grace that we can master our carnality
THE FACT IS
- VII) It requires humility to receive the grace that is offered by God
God's grace to us gives us opportunity and time to repent and turn to Him
QUESTION
- VIII) How are the churches, as well as modern believers, to overcome carnality
What must we do to experience and obtain His favor?
- IX) V7 Therefore **submit to God**. *Resist* the devil and he will flee from you
Since God opposes the proud, giving grace to the humble, we submit to Him
Instead of resisting God, we must submit ourselves to Him
- X) James says that the unfaithfulness of the believers is due to the enemy's influence
Submit: A voluntary attitude of yielding, cooperating, or assuming responsibility
Submission is the yielding of one's will to God, which leads to obeying Him
- XI) In the attitude of humility, yield to what He has said is necessary for our good (V6)
It is when we submit to God that we are able to resist the Devil

- I) We **resist** (withstand; oppose) the devil instead of **resisting God's** will for us!
- II) We do this **in faith**, being aware that we are in spiritual war
Eph 6:10-11 Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord and in the power of His might. Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil.
2 Co 10:4 For the weapons of our warfare are not carnal but **mighty in God** for pulling down strongholds
- III) Submitting to God keeps you from yielding to the draw of the devil and your flesh
When you yield to God, you will resist yielding to the devil in anything
- IV) Being under God's protection and trusting in Him results in victory over Satan
1 Jn 5:18 We know that those who have become part of God's family do not make a practice of sinning, for God's Son holds them securely, and the evil one cannot get his hands on them.
- V) V8 **Draw near to God** and He will draw near to you
In setting their hearts on pleasure, they have ceased drawing near to God
- VI) **Quote**: When a soul sets out to seek God, God sets out to meet that soul; so that while we are drawing near to him, he is drawing near to us.
- VII) Ro 12:1-2 I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that you present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable to God, which is your reasonable service. And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what is that good and acceptable and perfect will of God
- VIII) What are we as believers to do in order to draw near to God?
- IX) V8 Cleanse your hands you sinners; and purify your hearts you double-minded
Cleanse your hands: Clean up your lives
Purify your hearts: Make pure your thoughts, passions, desires, and purposes
- X) V9 Lament and mourn and weep. Let your laughter be turned to mourning and your James calls them to **genuine repentance** and gives insight into what it looks like

- I) There are many who think they have repented when in fact, they really haven't
They may have remorse, or regret but have not truly turned away from their sin
- II) James tells us what repentance looks like
- III) **Lament**: To grieve, to be miserable
Mourn: A passionate sorrow of heart that is obvious
Mt 5:4 Blessed are those who mourn: for they shall be comforted.
Weep: Strong tears
Lu 6:21 Blessed are you who weep now: for you shall laugh
- IV) V9 Let your laughter be turned to mourning and your joy to gloom
- V) Become sober minded and take sin seriously, and guard your walk with Jesus!
1 Th 5:6 Therefore let us not sleep, as others do, but let us watch and be sober.
1 Pe 5:8 Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil walks about like a roaring lion, seeking whom he may devour.
KEY
- VI) This results from seeing sin for what it is, and what it has done to humanity
- VII) V10 Humble yourselves in the sight of the Lord and He will lift you up
We have sinned against God, so we humble ourselves before Him
- VIII) Mourners lay on the ground, and rolled themselves in the dust. When pardoned, they arose from the earth, shook themselves from the dust, and clothed themselves in their better garments.
Is 57:15 For this is what the high and exalted One says-- he who lives forever, whose name is holy: "I live in a high and holy place, but also with the one who is contrite and lowly in spirit, to revive the spirit of the lowly and to revive the heart of the contrite.
- IX) V11 Do not speak evil of one another, brethren. He who speaks evil of a brother
Instead of engaging in wars and fights, humble yourselves and live in peace
Do not gossip and backbite one another, because you are family in Jesus
- X) Peace and unity are evidences that you belong to Jesus
This is all built on the foundation of loving God, and loving one another

- I) V11 He who speaks evil of a brother and judges his brother speaks evil of the law
Both the Law and teachings of Jesus forbid believers from judging harshly
By disregarding God's word, you are saying that it is not true and you are above it
- II) The Law of Moses is summed up in loving God and one another
Gal 5:14-16 For all the law is fulfilled in one word, even in this: "You shall love your neighbor as yourself." But if you bite and devour one another, beware lest you be consumed by one another! I say then: Walk in the Spirit, and you shall not fulfill the lust of the flesh.
- III) To say **we love God** without loving others shows we **don't understand Christianity**
1 Jn 4:7-8 Beloved, let us love one another, for love is of God; and everyone who loves is born of God and knows God. He who does not love does not know God, for God is love.
- IV) Love is the willingness to sacrifice one's interest on behalf of others
This is best demonstrated by God's willingness to send Jesus to die on the cross
- V) This kind of love is the love that God gives us, and empowers us to give to others
Jn 15:12-13 This is My commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you. Greater love has no one than this, than to lay down one's life for his friends.
- VI) Love is the birthmark of the Christian, identifying us as God's children
This kind of love is what God uses to reach those who are yet to know Him
Jn 13:34-35 A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another; as I have loved you, that you also love one another. By this all will know that you are My disciples, if you have love for one another
- VII) If you ask a non-Christian to describe a Christian the answers would be interesting
Many of the respondents would say something negative about believers
Some would describe us by what we are mad about, or what we are against
- VIII) Swindol: One of the most profound comments made regarding the early church came from the lips of a man named Aristides, sent by the Emperor Hadrian to spy out those strange creatures known as "Christians." Having seen them in action, Aristides returned with a mixed report. But his immortal words to the emperor have echoed down through history: "Behold! How they love one another."

- I) If you humble yourself and love one another, peace will move in the church
- II) V11 Do not speak evil of one another
This will keep you from speaking evil of one another
THE FACT IS
- III) By destroying with the tongue, God's love is not exhibited
Slander destroys 3 people: The **speaker**, the 1 **spoken to** and the 1 **spoken of**
Pr 16:28 A perverse man stirs up dissension, and a gossip separates close friends.
- IV) Instead of tearing one another down, we will begin to build one another up
Eph 4:31-32 Get rid of all bitterness, rage, and anger, brawling and **slander**, along with every form of malice. Be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving each other, just as in Christ God forgave you.
- V) V11 **Not speaking evil** refers to any form of speech against a person
This includes speaking what may be true, but with a heart to hurt another
- VI) Christians are different: We are to encourage and love one another
Our **goal** should be grace, love, truth, and unity and **our speech** should reveal this
- VII) Our goal as believers must be for the body of Christ to be edified and unified
This obviously would be evidenced by the way we speak of and to one another
Pr 16:24 Pleasant words are a honeycomb, sweet to the soul and healing to the bones
- VIII) To love someone is a decision we make through the power of God's Spirit
- IX) We all know people who **are very difficult to love**
Love is not only an emotion; it is a decision that is acted upon out of obedience
Without God's help and a desire to obey Him, it is simply not going to happen
- X) V11 Again, by speaking evil and judging we are speaking evil of the Law of Moses
The one violating it places himself above it and becomes the ultimate authority
- XI) V12 There is one lawgiver who is able to save and to destroy. Who are you to
In your being a critic of your brother, you have usurped God's right to judge

- I) **God is the ultimate judge, and God judges fairly**
He has all of the facts, and is the only One who can judge righteously
Pr 16:2 All the ways of a man are pure in his own eyes, but the LORD weighs the spirits.
Jer 17:9-10 The heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately wicked; Who can know it? I, the LORD, search the heart, I test the mind, even to give every man according to his ways, according to the fruit of his doings.
- II) **V12 So James asks: Who are you to judge another**
We see the outside, but can never know the thoughts, motives, or intentions
- III) **We are not and cannot be the final judge: only God can be**
Pr 21:2 Every way of a man is right in his own eyes, But the Lord weighs the hearts.
Jer 17:10 I the Lord search the heart and examine the mind, to reward each person according to their conduct, according to what their deeds deserve
- IV) **Constant criticism will only destroy the Church**
- V) **Instead of destroying, God help us to uplift and encourage one another**
Ro 14:4 Who are you to judge another's servant? To his own master he stands or falls. Indeed, he will be made to stand, for God is able to make him stand