

JAMES

How to Reduce Conflict:

James 3:13 (NIV) “Who is wise and understanding among you? **Let him show it by his good life**, by deeds done in the humility that comes from wisdom.”

James 3:14 (NIV) “But if you harbor bitter envy and selfish ambition in your hearts, do not boast about it or deny the truth.”

James 3:15-16 (NIV) “Such ‘wisdom’ does not come down from heaven but is earthly, unspiritual, of the devil. ¹⁶For where you have envy and selfish ambition, there you find disorder (tumult, noise, conflict) and every evil practice.”

James 3:17-18 (NIV) “But the wisdom that comes from heaven is first of all pure; then peace-loving, considerate, submissive, full of mercy and good fruit, impartial and sincere. ¹⁸Peacemakers who sow in peace raise a harvest of righteousness.”

Here are 5 attitudes that reduce conflict:

1. I don't always have to get what I want.

James 4:1-2_a (NIV) “What causes fights and quarrels among you? Don't they come from your desires (hedone) that battle within you? ²You want something but don't get it. You kill and covet, but you cannot have what you want. You quarrel and fight.”

2. I don't always have to win.

James 4:4 (NIV) “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.”

James 4:5 (NIV) “Or do you think Scripture says without reason that the spirit he caused to live in us envies intensely?”

James 4:6 (NIV) “But he gives us more grace. That is why Scripture says: ‘God opposes the proud but gives grace to the humble.’”

James 4:10 (NIV) “Humble yourselves before the Lord, and he will lift you up.”

3. I don't always have to be perfect.

James 4:8-9 (NIV) “Come near to God and he will come near to you. Wash your hands, you sinners, and purify your hearts, you double-minded. ⁹Grieve, mourn and wail. Change your laughter to mourning and your joy to gloom.”

4. I'm not going to backbite other people.

James 4:11_a-12 (NIV) “Brothers, do not slander (backbite) one another... ¹²There is only one Lawgiver and Judge, the one who is able to save and destroy. But you—who are you to judge your neighbor?”

1 Corinthians 4:5_a (NIV) “... judge nothing before the appointed time; wait until the Lord comes. He will bring to light what is hidden in darkness and will expose the motives of the heart.”

Romans 12:18 (NIV) “If it is possible, as far as it depends on you, live at peace with everyone.”