

A FAITH THAT REDUCES QUARRELING

A Faith That Works When Life Doesn't – Part 19

Definition: Quarrel – “A heated argument, typically about a trivial issue, between people who are usually on good terms.”

“What causes quarrels and arguments with each other? They come from the conflicting selfish desires that are always fighting inside you. You want things you don't have so you're ready to kill to get them! And you covet what others have but you can't get it, so you quarrel and get in fights. But you don't have, because you don't ask God for it. And if you ask, you don't receive it because you ask with the wrong motivation – you only want what gives you pleasure. You cheat on God when you have an affair with what the world values. To love what the world loves is to hate God and to be the enemy of God! This is what the Scripture means when it says that God's Spirit who lives inside us is intensely jealous. He wants our exclusive love. That's why he gives us so much grace! As Scripture says, 'God opposes the prideful but gives his grace to the humble.' So, give yourselves completely to God! Then resist the devil, and he'll flee from you. If you draw close to God, he will draw close to you. Wash your hands of your sins, and purify your heart of your double-minded living. Be sad and sorry and grieve over your actions. Stop laughing at your sin and get serious about it. If you humble yourself before the Lord, he will lift you up!” James 4:1-10

WHAT CAUSES QUARRELS?

• “What causes quarrels and arguments with each other? They come from the conflicting selfish desires that are always fighting inside you.” James 4:1

“Our sinful desires want what is opposite of God's Spirit, and God's Spirit wants what is contrary to our sinful desires. So the two are constantly fighting each other, so you cannot just do whatever you please.” Galatians 5:17

WHAT WILL HELP ME QUARREL LESS?

1. REALIZE _____

“Quarreling, harsh words, and dislike of others should have no place in your lives!” Ephesians 4:31b (LB)

Quarreling is a Mark of Immaturity:

“You are still only baby Christians, controlled by your own desires, not God's. When you are jealous and divide into quarreling groups, doesn't that prove you are still babies, wanting your own way? In fact, you are acting like people who don't belong to the Lord at all!” 1 Corinthians 3:3 (LB)

“The fool who provokes his family to anger and resentment will finally have nothing worthwhile left.” Proverbs 11:29 (LB)

2. DECIDE I WANT TO _____

“Wash your hands of your sins, and purify your heart of your double-minded living. Be sad and sorry and grieve over your actions. Stop laughing at your sin and get serious about it.” James 4:8b-9

3. STOP _____ TO FULFILL NEEDS IN MY LIFE THAT ONLY GOD CAN FULFILL

"You don't have, BECAUSE you don't ask God for it. And if you ask, you don't receive it because you ask with the wrong motivation..." James 4:2b-3

"You cheat on God when you have an affair with what the world values. To love what the world loves is to hate God and to be the enemy of God! This is what the Scripture means when it says that God's Spirit who lives inside us is intensely jealous. He wants our faithful love. That's why he gives us so much grace!" James 4:4-6a

4. CHOOSE _____

"Pride only leads to quarrels." Proverbs 13:10

"As Scripture says, 'God opposes the prideful but gives his grace to the humble.' So, give yourselves completely to God!" James 4:6b-7

"If you humble yourself before the Lord, he will lift you up!" James 4:10

5. RECOGNIZE _____

"Anger gives a mighty foothold to the devil." Ephesians 4:27 (NLT)

"Resist the devil, and he will flee from you." James 4:7b (NLT)

"We are very aware of Satan's schemes so that he doesn't outwit us."

2 Corinthians 2:11

"Get rid of all bitterness and angry rage. Never shout harsh words, insults, cursing, or any other type of rude or hurtful talk." Ephesians 4:31

6. TALK TO GOD _____

"If you draw close to God, he will draw close to you." James 4:8a

7. INVITE JESUS _____

"Let the peace that Christ gives control your thinking, because as members of Christ's body, you are called to live in peace." Colossians 3:15