

Shoe Leather Faith

How to Start and Stop a Fight (Part One)

James 4:1-10

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April 23, 2023

What causes quarrels and what causes fights among you?

James 4:1a ESV

I: The Cause of Conflict (1b)

What causes quarrels and what causes fights among you?

Is it not this, that your passions are at war within you?

James 4:1 ESV

It is tempting to say that all conflict comes from Satan, false brethren, or heretics. It is tempting to say conflict is a result of being oppressed. Although these can be sources of conflict, James forces us to look within (*within you*). Go home, look in the mirror, and there is a good chance you will see the source of many conflicts.

Our natural, carnal hearts turn “needs” or “wishes” into “demands” which cause us to fight dirty. *We want what we want when we want it, and if not careful, we determine we won't be happy until we get what we want.*

Misdirected and untrained desires within us are the cause of most fights.

You desire and do not have, so you murder.

You *covet and cannot obtain*, so you fight and quarrel.
James 2:2a

The word “covet” means to boil over with envy. It’s the sin of moderately successful people who can’t stand to see others do better.

II: The Consequences of Uncontrolled Passions (2b-6)

There is a natural downward spiral when our passions are not brought under submission to Christ.

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.
- 5.

Or do you suppose it is to no purpose that the Scripture says,
“He yearns jealously over the spirit that He has made to dwell in us”?
James 4:5 ESV

True love is jealous.

III: The Cure (6-10)

But He gives more grace. Therefore it says, “God opposes the proud but gives grace to the humble.” Submit yourselves therefore to God...
James 4:6-7a ESV