

PART 8: HANDOUT JAMES 4:1-12 “HOW TO END WARS”

In Today's Text, James discusses the Theme of War, and explains that 3 Wars are going on in the World...And how these Wars can be stopped. VS 1-3...Speak to Being At War with Ourselves; VS 4-10...Discusses Being At War with God ; VS 1,11,12 ... At War with Each Other. **Read 4: 1-12**

In Vs One He Ask, What Causes Fights and Quarrels Among You? Among Christians! **Ps 133:1**

- Brothers should Live Together in Love and Harmony, Yet Too Often They Do NOT!
- Gen 13...Lot caused a quarrel with his uncle Abraham. 2 Sam 13-18 Absalom created a War with his father David. Luke 9 The Disciples Argued Over who was the Greatest in the Kingdom.
- Gal 5. The Galatian believers were biting and devouring one another. 1 Cor 6-14. The members of the Corinthian church were competing with each other and even suing each other in court

James mentioned several Different Kinds of Disagreements Among the Saints.

- **Class wars** Chapter 2:1-9. The rich man gets the attention, the poor man is ignored. When a church Acts this Way... They Are Out of the Will of God!
- **Employment wars**, Chapter 5. It is the Rich man who has the Power to Control and Hurt the Poor Man by Holding Back Wages or Paying Sub-standard wages.
- **Vs 11-12 Speak to Personal Wars...JUDGING ONE-ANOTHER**
- The Saints were speaking evil of one another, and judging one another. Here, we see the Wrong Use of the Tongue, Ephesians 4:15. They are not to speak evil in a spirit of rivalry and criticism.

If the Truth about a brother is harmful, then we should Cover it in Love and Not Repeat it Matt 18

- POINT: James was Not Forbidding Us to Evaluate People. Christians Need to Have Discernment, But they Must Not Act like God is Passing Judgment! **Matt 7:1 to 5 First Examine Ourselves**

We Never Know All the Facts in a Case or All the Motives at Work in Men's Hearts. *To Speak Evil or Judge a Brother, on the Basis of Partial Evidence, or Unkind Motives is to Sin Against Him and Against God.*

- God is the Only Judge! Because He is Patient, Understanding and All-Knowing...His Judgments are Just and Holy...Therefore, We Can Leave the Matter with Him! **John 17:21**

James answered, “Why Some Christians at War with One Another?” by **Explaining the 2nd War**

- 4:1-3 We Are At War With Ourselves! **The War in Their Hearts is Causing Wars in the Church!**
- The Essence of Sin is Selfishness! In the Garden, Eve Disobeyed God because she Wanted to Eat of the Tree and Become Wise like God.
- **POINT: Selfish Desires are Dangerous Because They Lead to Wrong Actions! James 4: 2-3**

KEY: When Our Praying is Wrong, Our Whole Christian Life is Wrong! The Purpose of Prayer is Not to get Man's Will Done in Heaven...But to Get God's Will Done on Earth! **Thou Shall Not Covet, is the last of God's 10 Commandments, But its Violation can Make Us Break All of the Other Nine.**

POINT: If There Is War On the Inside, There Will Ultimately Be War On the Outside!

I've Noticed that People who are at War with themselves because of Selfish Desires are always unhappy

- Instead of being Thankful for the Blessings they have, they complain about the Blessings they Do Not Have. They are Always Looking for that Magic. Something that Will Change their Lives *When the Real Problem is Within Their Own Hearts.*

KEY: This Anger at God Eventually Spills Over and We Get Angry at God's People!

- *Church and Family Problem would be Solved if People would Look into their Own Hearts and See the Battle Raging There. We're at War with Ourselves...Because We're At War With God!*
- The Root Cause of Every War, *Internal and External* is Rebellion Against God!

A Believer Declares War Against God Simply by Being Friendly with God's Enemies! Vs 4-10 names 3 enemies we must Not fraternize with if we want to be at peace with God. The World, Flesh and Devil,

- By the World, James means, "Human Society Apart from God". *Abraham was a Friend of God...Lot was the Friend of the world. Here, We see the Tremendous Difference in Goals,Priorities & Outcome*

First there is the friendship of the World.Loving what the World has to Offer, **1 John 2:15-17**

- This Misguided Love Makes it Easy to Conform to the World Romans 12:2
- **Our text Makes Clear that Friendship with the World is Compared to Adultery.**

The Second Enemy of the Believer is the FLESH: Our Old Nature inherited from Adam's Fall into Sin.

- **Key Point: The Flesh is Not the Body. *The Body is NOT Sinful...The Body is Neutral.***
- The Spirit may Use the Body to Glorify God; Or the Flesh may Use the Body to Serve Sin!
- When a Sinner Receives Christ as Savior, he Receives a New Nature Within, But the Old Nature is Neither Removed Nor Reformed. THEREFORE, There is a Battle Within.
- The Sinful Nature Desires, what is Contrary to the Spirit, and the Spirit What is Contrary to the Sinful Nature. **This Conflict...Becomes a Spiritual Warfare!**
- Living for the Flesh means Grieving the Holy Spirit of God who Lives in Us!
- **KEY: Living to Please, the Old Nature Means to Declare War Against God!**
- To allow the Flesh to Control the Mind is to Lose the Blessing of Fellowship with God

Abraham had a spiritual mind; walked with God & Enjoyed Peace. Lot had a Carnal Mind; Disobeyed God Experienced war. Rom 8:64 to be carnally minded is death, but to be spiritually minded is a life and peace.

VS 7, the Devil: The world is in Conflict with God the Father; the Flesh Fights Against the Holy Spirit...and the devil Opposes The Son of God.

- Pride is Satan's Great Sin, it is his Chief Weapon in his Warfare Against the Saint and the Savior.

God Wants Us to be Humble Depend on Grace; Satan Wants Us to be Proud Depend on Ourselves.

- KEY: Satan is the Author of All Do it Yourself, Spiritual Enterprises. Satan Enjoys, Inflating the Ego and Encouraging the Believer to Do it His Own Way!

3 Enemies that Want to Turn Us Away from God: The World, Flesh & Devil. But Christ has Delivered Us from them...*But they Still Entice and Attack Us! 3 instructions that we may Enjoy Peace*

- **Vs 7-Submit to God:** Unconditional Surrender is the Only Way to Complete Victory!
- If there is any Area of Your Life Kept Back from God, there Will Always be Battles!
- Key: Submission is an Act of the Will it is Saying Not My Will But Thine Be Done!
- **Verse 8-Says, Draw Near to God:** *Come near to God By Confessing Our Sins, Be Pure!*
- Dr. A.W. Tozer *"Nearness is Likeness...The More We are Like God, the Nearer We are to God".*
- **Vs 9-10 Humble Yourselves Before God:** God Hates the Sin of Pride. Proverbs 6:16-17, **The Mark of True Humility is Facing the Seriousness Of Sin and Dealing with Our Disobedience.**

If We Obey these 3, 1. Submit to God 2. Draw Near to God & 3. Humble Ourselves... God Will Draw Near, Clean, and Forgive Us; and Then...The Wars Will Cease!

We will NOT be at War with God, So We Will NOT Be At War With Ourselves. And We Will NOT Be At War With Others.

The Promise of Isaiah 32:17 *"The fruit of that righteousness will be peace; its effect will be quietness and confidence forever."*

"LIFE" POINT: PEACE IS NOT THE ABSENCE OF PROBLEMS...IN THIS LIFE IT IS THE PRESENCE OF JESUS CHRIST!