

Why We Fight With Those We Love

James 4:1-10

Series: Five Lies That Ruin Relationships - Part 1

Introduction

Piercing Words – Wounded Lives

- I. The root cause of interpersonal conflicts is our consuming passion for _____ . (vs. 1-3)

¹What causes wars, and what causes fightings among you? Is it not your passions that are at war in your members? ²You desire and do not have; so you kill. And you covet and cannot obtain; so you fight and wage war. You do not have, because you do not ask. ³You ask and do not receive, because you ask wrongly, to spend it on your passions.

- Our Problem =
- The Symptoms =
- Our Strategy =
- The Results =

- II. God's Diagnosis: Our constant quarrels reveal . . . (vs. 4-6)

- We've believed a lie.

- We've betrayed a trust.

- We've become an enemy.

⁴Unfaithful creatures! Do you not know that friendship with the world is enmity with God? Therefore whoever wishes to be a friend of the world makes himself an enemy of God. ⁵Or do you suppose it is in vain that the scripture says, "He yearns jealously over the spirit which he has made to dwell in us"? ⁶But he gives more grace; therefore it says, "God opposes the proud, but gives grace to the humble."

III. God's Prescription: _____ and God will heal your relationships. (vs. 7-10)

⁷Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil and he will flee from you. ⁸Draw near to God and he will draw near to you. Cleanse your hands, you sinners, and purify your hearts, you men of double mind. ⁹Be wretched and mourn and weep. Let your laughter be turned to mourning and your joy to dejection. ¹⁰Humble yourselves before the Lord and he will exalt you.

◆ **Steps To Diffuse Conflict**

1. _____
"Submit yourselves therefore to God . . ." (vs. 7a)
2. _____
"Resist the devil and he will flee from you." (vs. 7b)
3. _____
"Draw near to God and He will draw near to you." (vs. 8a)
4. _____
"Cleanse your hands . . . purify your hearts . . ." (vs. 8b)
"Let there be tears for the wrong you've done . . ." (vs. 9)

◆ **God's Promise For The Humble** (vs. 10)

Discussion Questions

1. What is at the core of our conflicts with other people? Briefly define "hedonism" in your own words.
2. Why is hedonism a lie? How are we influenced to unconsciously "buy into" its philosophy daily?
3. How does God view our strategies to gratify ourselves apart from Him?
4. What is the solution to interpersonal conflict? What specifically is involved in "humbling ourselves" before God and others?
5. Is there a specific relationship that needs attention in your life? What would humbling yourself look like in this situation?