

# James 4:1-12 - Quarrels / Worldliness

Read James 4:1-12

## Quarrels (4:1–3)

The Greek word for desires, “*edonon*” translates: sensual delight, desire, lust, pleasure. It is the source of the English word 'hedonism,' which sees pleasure as the chief goal of life. When God, someone, or something stops us from fulfilling one of these pleasures, what is the natural/human reaction?

V. 2 – What is the effect when a carrot is dangled in front of a horse, just beyond his bite? Look up: Proverbs 19:2

V. 3 – James is not saying that the reason they didn't have their pleasures fulfilled was because they didn't pray but he was accusing them of asking for things to use for simply for pleasure. How did God respond to Jabez's request, and why? (1 Chronicles 4:9-11) Look up: 1 John 3:21,22

- The purpose of prayer is not to get man's will done in heaven, but to get God's will done on earth. When do you pray; for how long; can you say you've seen answers?

## Spiritual Unfaithfulness (4:4)

The next cause of fights and quarrels mentioned is spiritual unfaithfulness.

Why does James use the word adulterous to describe such people?

Look up: Jeremiah 31:32, John 15:18-19

Describe the act of forging a friendship. What is involved in the process?

In the “spending time” with someone we love that we get to know another's likes and dislikes. When we care about that person it will be our deepest “pleasure” to make that person pleased.

What did James say just previously (James 3:15) about the type of thinking that comes from the world?

## Pride (4:5–10)

V.5 What source does James credit for his teaching? For what is the Spirit inside so envious?

Look up: Exodus 20:2,3 Deuteronomy 4:23

V. 6 What is the attitude that enables us to be free from our self centered desires? Only when we switch from a divided to a single allegiance (Self-seeking/God-seeking) will God take control. God will not deal with a divided heart.

Look up: Revelation 3:15,16

V.7 - Rather than resisting God's will for us, we are to resist the devil.

V. 8 – Glance at Luke 15. What is required in drawing near to God?

How do we “wash our hands”? Look up: Isaiah 1:16

V. 9, 10 – Explain. Why is James instructing believers to grieve, mourn, wail, not laugh, and replace joy with gloom?

- What is involved in “humbling ourselves”, explain? What can't happen, until we do? Look up: 1 Peter 5:6

## Slander (4:11–12)

Jesus summarized the law as love for God and Neighbor (Matthew 22:37-40), and Paul said that love demonstrated toward a neighbor would fully satisfy the law (Romans 13:6-10). When we fail to love, we are \_\_\_\_\_ God's law.

Look up: Psalm 15:1-4 .

### *The book of James*

James wrote to Jewish Christians who had been scattered throughout the Mediterranean world because of persecution. In their hostile surroundings they were tempted to let intellectual agreement pass for true faith. James was reminding them that genuine faith transforms lives, and to put their faith into action. James was telling them that true faith bears its fruit in loving actions directed toward one another.

### *Ten Commandments of Resolving Christian Conflicts: 4:7-12*

1. Submit Yourself To God (4:7a)
2. Resist The Devil (4:7b)
3. Draw Near To God (4:8a)
4. Cleanse Your Hands (4:8b)
5. Purify Your Hearts (4:8c)
6. Grieve (4:8c)
7. Mourn (4:9b)
8. Weep (4:9c)
9. Humble Yourself (4:10)
10. Do Not Speak Evil Against Other Christians (4:11-12)

*Do not judge, or you too will be judged. For in the same way you judge others, you will be judged, and with the measure you use, it will be measured to you. Why do you look at the speck of sawdust in your brother's eye and pay no attention to the plank in your own eye? – Matthew 7:1-3*