

CONFLICT
James 4:1-12

How do we address conflict? Vs. 1a

- I. Recognize that conflict starts within us. James 4:1b-3
 - a. We tend to address conflict on the outside but James says it really starts within you.
 - b. The best way to help a conflict is to start within the heart and not the external.
 - c. James describes what conflict looks like within an individual.
 - i. Vs. 1 We wage war within our own “members.” (See also Galatians 5:17; Romans 7:24)
 1. Our conflict is found in what the heart seeks for pleasure
 - ii. Vs. 2 Envy and Coveting will lead you away from God.
 - iii. Vs. 2 We don’t pray because we see ourselves as the answer
 - iv. Vs. 3 When we pray we don’t pray with a godly mentality but out of selfishness.
 - d. James reminds us that self is not the solution to avoiding life’s conflict. The answer is found outside of self.
- II. Worldly conflict with us, leads to conflict with God.
 - a. Understand Gods desire in your conflicts.
 - i. Vs.4 we choose to walk in conflict with God.
 - ii. Vs5. God desires to let his spirit lead you.
 - iii. Vs. 6 God offers you his grace to rid yourselves of empty pleasures.
 1. Christianity is the only religion that has true forgiveness and grace.
 - iv. Vs. 6 Letting go of self is where true freedom begins.
 - v. Vs. 7 God’s door is always open for you
 - b. What do you do if you are in conflict with God?
 - i. Vs. 8a Draw near to God out of a desire to find satisfaction in Him.
 - ii. Vs.8b-9 See Confession as Good for the Soul
 1. See Psalm 32 and Psalm 51. Read how David struggled in worldly conflict after sinning with Bathsheba but came to God as James 3:7-9 describes.
 2. When you acknowledge the severity of sin, You can magnify the glory of Christ’s mercy and Grace.
 - iii. Vs. 10 When you come to Christ in humility, it is at this point that Jesus really begins to build you up. See Psalm 51:17
- III. Conflict with God leads to Conflict with others.
 - a. Vs. 11-12 Don’t see God’s grace in your life as an opportunity to look down on others.
 - i. Christians need to have discernment (Phil. 1: 9–10), but they must not act like God in passing judgment. We must examine our own lives, and then help others (Matt. 7: 1– 5).D
 - b. What are we to do when a Christian sins.
 - i. We should cover it in love and not repeat it (1 Peter 4: 8).
 - ii. If he continues in sin, we should go to him personally and try to win him back, Not for the purpose of punishing Him but rather to see him enjoying his walk in Christ. (Matt. 18: 15– 19; Gal. 6: 1– 2).
 - iii. In all things we should strive to live out Ephesians 4:1-3