

THIS WEEK'S MESSAGE

JANUARY 1ST, 2023 // BOOK OF JAMES

WAR (JAMES 4:1-6) AMONG YOU

James is speaking to the church, addressing the words that were being used to attack and wage war against other Believers.

- **He makes it clear that the real source of these wars is our hearts. The war on the outside is just a mirror of the war on the inside. Then he reveals the heart of personal war.**

INSIDE YOU

There is a spirit of selfishness at the core of all sin. James saw that the people wanted more for themselves and were jealous of what others had.

- **We want what others have and can do, so we pray to be able to have and do like them. When God doesn't answer our selfish prayers, we get mad at Him and His people.**

SPIRITUAL ADULTERY

Serious topics sometimes requires strong language. Selfish ambition, paired with still loving the world, was creating disunity.

- **When we pursue and endorse selfish ambition, we are "cheating" on God. God knows our motives and will actively resist by withholding His grace until we repent.**

TURN (JAMES 4:7-10)

SUBMIT TO GOD

So much attention has been given to the last part of v.7, "Resist the devil, and he will flee from you," but it can't be done!

- **Between our sinful desire and the devil's temptations, we all too easily give sin a foothold in our lives. The ONLY way to resist the devil is to submit to God!**

REAL REPENTANCE

In a world that believes quoting Scripture is the same as repentance, real repentance is about real change.

- **Repentance is surrender, drawing close to God, confessing our sin and asking Him to change us, and humbling ourselves to God and the world. God will humble us if we don't.**

JUSTICE (JAMES 4:11-12)

CONTEXT

It's important to remember that James is addressing a group that has been prideful and ambitious in their treatment of other believers.

- **If we speak against other believers with slander for the purpose of making ourselves look better, we are the ones in danger of judgment.**

FUTURE (JAMES 4:13-17)

"YOU DO NOT KNOW..."

Think of all that is involved in life: today, tomorrow, buying, selling, gains, losses. Life is made up of people and places, activities and goals, days and years, and each of us must make many crucial decisions day after day.

- **Still, life can be a mystery. So many people live their lives full of plans but still not knowing where they are going.**

"IF THE LORD WILLS"

Many people have the mistaken idea that the will of God is a formula for misery. Just the opposite is true! It is disobeying the Lord's will that leads to misery.

- **When you know Jesus Christ as your Savior and seek to do His will, then life starts to make sense. There is a simplicity and unity to your life that makes for poise and confidence. You come to understand that this is your Father's world!**

MOTIVES

- We attack and fight when our hearts are corrupt with selfish ambition.
- **We become jealous of what others have and can do, so we compare and criticize.**
- **When we create disunity because of our sin, God will resist us. Life will lose its joy, and we will miss God's grace.**

DANGER

- Losing our joy and missing God's grace will make life miserable.
- **As sure as God is sovereign, He knows our hearts well.**
- **If our hearts are so filled with contempt, jealousy, slander, pride, and selfish desire, we should remember that God will judge our motives.**

GOD'S WILL

- Many ask how to know God's will.
- **Start with surrender. If you know one thing you ought to do, DO THAT!**
- **The Christian who knows, loves, and obeys the will of God will enjoy God's blessing (intimacy). His life may not be easier, but his heart will be full of joy!**