

James 4: A Self-Diagnostic Tool in Conflicts

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I. Why this breakout session?

1. We all have conflicts.
2. We think the other person has larger contribution.
3. A correct diagnosis guides accurate treatment.
4. Understanding fosters maturity. (Prov. 18:2)

James 4:1-3: What is the source of quarrels and conflicts among you? Is not the source your pleasures that wage war in your members? ² You lust and do not have; *so* you commit murder. You are envious and cannot obtain; so you fight and quarrel. You do not have because you do not ask. ³ You ask and do not receive because you ask with wrong motives, so you may spend it on your pleasures.

II. What was happening in James' original audiences? In us?

A. Greek Words

"pleasures" = *hedone* = _____

"lust" = *epithumeo* = _____

"envious" = "*zeloo*" = _____

B. Strategy #1: Demand from others

We feel: _____

We want: _____

We need: _____

C. Strategy #1: Demand from God

We ask:

"God, would you teach Jane to respect others more?"

"Father, please help Joe be a better listener."

"Lord, turn Betsy into a more flexible person, someone who can bend to another's ideas."

"Jesus, sanctify Bill into a more loving person."

D. Spiritual Murders = not loving another

1 John 3:14b, 15a: “He who does not love abides in death. Everyone who hates his brother is a murderer...”

Matthew 5:22: “But I say to you that everyone who is angry with his brother shall be guilty [of murder] before the court...”

Spiritual murders are as real and tragic as _____ murders.

James 4:4: ⁴“You adulteresses, do you not know that friendship with the world is hostility toward God? Therefore whoever wishes to be a friend of the world makes himself an enemy of God.”

III. Why is James so harsh?

1. We are _____
2. We are _____
3. We are _____

IV. How do we diagnose ourselves?

1. Use your _____ be an indicator.
2. Ask God to uncover your _____.

V. What is the treatment?

A. Receive God’s “greater gift”.

James 4:5, 6: ⁵“Or do you think Scripture says without reason that he jealously longs for the spirit he has caused to dwell in us? ⁶But he gives us a greater grace.

Grace = *charis* = gift God has already given us salvation. He wants to give us even more gifts.

James 4:7-10: ⁷Submit yourselves, then, to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you. ⁸Come near to God and he will come near to you. Wash your hands, you sinners, and purify your hearts, you double-minded. ⁹Grieve, mourn and wail. Change your laughter to mourning and your joy to gloom. ¹⁰Humble yourselves before the Lord, and he will lift you up.”

B. Submission and Humility

1. Admitting God’s assessment is the correct one.
2. Asking God for what you need.
3. Obeying the commands of love God gives you.