

The Source of Strife **James 4:1-12**

Main Point:

Since selfishness is the source of your strife with others and with God, humble yourself before the Lord.

1. Selfishness leads to strife in your relationships with others.
2. Selfishness leads to strife in your relationship with God as well.
3. This is serious, but God gives grace to those who repent.
4. Instead of continuing in your selfishness, humble yourself before the Lord.

1 Peter 2:11 ¹¹ Beloved, I beg *you* as sojourners and pilgrims, abstain from fleshly lusts which war against the soul, (NKJV)

James 4:2 ² You desire and do not have, so you murder. You covet and cannot obtain, so you fight and quarrel ... (ESV)

Douglas Moo "Frustrated desire, James makes clear, is what is breeding the intense strife that is convulsing the community."

James 3:16 ¹⁶ For where envy and self-seeking *exist*, confusion and every evil thing *are* there. (NKJV)

Dan Doriani "We use the word 'friend' lightly, when we really mean 'cordial acquaintance'. But in antiquity, as today, *true* friends shared a mindset and outlook on life. They shared interests, values, and goals. They saw life in much the same way. They shared goods as necessary. They cared for each other and worked together effectively because they agreed how the work should be done."

Luke 11:23 ²³ "He who is not with Me is against Me ... (NKJV)

Douglas Moo "Verse 5 explains why flirtation with the world is so serious a matter by bringing to mind the jealousy of the Lord, which demands total, unreserved, unwavering allegiance from the people with whom he has joined himself."

Deuteronomy 4:23-24 ²³ "Take heed to yourselves, lest you forget the covenant of the LORD your God which He made with you, and make for yourselves a carved image in the form of anything which the LORD your God has forbidden you. ²⁴ "For the LORD your God *is* a consuming fire, a jealous God. (NKJV)

Douglas Moo "Whatever power Satan may have, the Christian can be absolutely certain that he has been given the ability to overcome that power."

Joel 2:12-13 ¹² "Now, therefore," says the LORD, "Turn to Me with all your heart, With fasting, with weeping, and with mourning." ¹³ So rend your heart, and not your garments; Return to the LORD your God, For He *is* gracious and merciful, Slow to anger, and of great kindness; And He relents from doing harm. (NKJV)