

New Day, Old Struggle

James 4

I. A War Without. (James 4:1)

- A. There are many who are at odds with people in their lives.
- B. These conflicts are rooted in pride and thwart the peace of God in our lives.
- C. We are admonished that as much as is in us we are to live peaceably with all men. (Rom. 12:18)

II. A War Within. (James 4:1-2)

- A. The primary reason we have conflict with others is because there is a conflict within our own hearts.
- B. Pride, jealousy and envy are inflamed because of the carnal desires of our hearts.
- C. These issues lead us to frustration with our lives and we take it out on others.

III. A War With God. (James 4:2b-6)

- A. When we are conflicted within, it is a result of a conflict with God.
- B. This conflict manifests itself in pride and self-will. (James 4:11-17)
- C. This affects our prayer life in one of two ways. Either we give up on prayer or we try to use it to manipulate God to get what we desire instead of what He desires for us.
- D. When we cling to the worlds way of thinking and behaving, we set ourselves up as the enemies of God. We are committing spiritual adultery against God.
- E. When we are stubborn and prideful, God sets Himself in battle array against us.

IV. God's Passion for Us. (James 4:5-6)

- A. God is jealous for your affection and adoration. (James 4:5)
- B. He desires to grant us grace for peace and joy to prevail with Him in life.
- C. God will woo us into a closeness with Him because He loves us.

V. God's Prescriptive for Us. (James 4:6-10)

- A. A humble penitence in our spirit is key to the restoration of the joy.
- B. A repentance from sin and self-will is needful for this catharsis of the heart.
- C. A submission and surrender of our will to God's will in turn will bring us victory.
- D. When we humble ourselves before Him, he will lift us up. (James 4:10)