

HOW TO AVOID ARGUMENTS
Developing a Faith That Works - Part 10
James 4:1-10
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I. THE CAUSE OF ARGUMENTS: _____

"What causes fights and quarrels among you? Don't they come from your desires that battle within you?" (v.1)

THREE DESIRES

- * The Desire _____ (Possessions)
"You want what you don't have...you long for what others have..." (vs.2LB)
- * The Desire _____ (Pleasure)
"...you want only what will give you pleasure" (vs.3bLB)
- * The Desire _____ (Pride & Power)
"Pride leads to arguments ..." Prov. 13:10 (LB)

Why aren't our desires fulfilled?

(vs. 2-3) *"You do not have, because you do not ask God. When you ask, you do not receive, because you ask with wrong motives..."*

Conflict with God

(vs. 4-6) *"God opposes the proud but gives grace to the humble." (vs.6)*

II. THE CURE FOR ARGUMENTS: _____

*"God ... gives grace to the humble. Humble yourself before the Lord, and he will lift you up."
(vs. 6 & 10)*

Steps to Defusing Conflict

1. **GIVE IN TO** _____ *"Submit yourselves then to God..." (vs.7a)*
"Let the peace of Christ rule in your heart." Col3:15

2. **GET WISE TO** _____
"Resist the devil, and he will flee from you." (vs.7b)
"In order that Satan might not outwit us, we are not unaware of his schemes." 2Cor.2:11

3. **GROW CLOSER TO** _____ *"Come near to God and He will come near to you."
(vs.8a)*
*"He will keep in perfect peace all those who trust in Him, whose thoughts turn often to the Lord."
Isaiah26:3*

4. **BE WILLING TO** _____ *"Wash your hands...purify your hearts..."
(vs.8b)*
"Let there be tears for the wrong you've done." (vs. 9 LB)
"Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit, but in humility, consider others better than yourselves. Each of you should look not only to your own interests, but also the interests of others. Your attitude should be the same as that of Jesus Christ." Phil. 2:3-5