

## Sermon Notes – James 4 – Fighting

*What causes fights and quarrels among you? – James 4:1a*

Two sources –

1. Others encouraging you get what you want
2. Selfishness inside of you wanting more

### The Gospel

**Individual:** *I'm a sinner. I have a wicked heart. And Jesus Christ died for me so that I wouldn't go to hell.*

**Big Picture:** *My heart on its own tends to destroy relationships. And Jesus Christ died for me not only so I wouldn't end up alone forever, but so that I could have great relationships, starting now and then for all time.*

### Wars and Skirmishes -- Read James 4:1

In Sermon on the Mount, Jesus talks about relationships.

*Love your enemies. Don't get divorced. Don't fight someone who wants to take from you.*

James is saying

*If you'll quit wanting stuff you can't have then you won't have anything to fight about!*

### Ask For Whatever You Want -- Read James 4:2-3

James says it's not working for you because you ask with the wrong motive. You ask for things to benefit yourself.

So who does it need to benefit? Someone else.

## A VERY STRONG WORD – Read James 4:4

I've been telling you that Jesus came to change the world, and to change the world He needs a radically strong commitment out of you.

James uses a very strong word here. He calls people who don't make a radical commitment -- a cheater.

A great marriage requires a radical commitment and a willingness to change the behavior you had when you were single!

### Make the Radical Commitment – Read James 4:7-9

Make a choice – God or the world. I choose God because I see my life being better overall. I submit to God.

So James gives us a bunch of quick commands to fix our relationship with God.

- Wash your hands (change your actions)
- Purify your hearts (change your thoughts)
- Grieve (put your old life to death)

Timothy Luke Johnson says – *be wretched*: The verb means to endure hard labor, distress, or hardship. Rather than threaten his readers with such a calamity from without, James calls on them to induce such distress in an act of conversion.

### The Prize – Read James 4:10

James Dobson writes about this:

*Then in the arms of the One who cares about us most, we receive from Him what we had been trying to gain for ourselves:*

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1. Which definition of the Gospel speaks best to you?

### Wars and Skirmishes -- Read James 4:1

2. What are the consequences of war in your life?

### Ask For Whatever You Want -- Read James 4:2-3

3. What kind of things should you ask God for?

### A VERY STRONG WORD – Read James 4:4

4. Does James word offend you? What do you think when you hear James you that word perhaps towards you?

### Make the Radical Commitment – Read James 4:7-9

5. What will need to change in your life to make a radical commitment?
6. If you've made that commitment, what would improve your ability to have joy?

### The Prize – Read James 4:10

7. What is the goal of such a radical commitment? How will you see that in your own life?

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