

# BAHRAIN REFORMED BAPTIST CHURCH

## QUARRELS AND CONFLICTS (James 4:1-12)

October 24, 2024

### Preliminary

Purpose: Warning against worldliness in order Christians must avoid quarrels and conflicts within the church.

Response: Be a peacemaker (Matthew 5:9), Peacemakers who sow in peace reap a harvest of righteousness (James 3:18) and Let brotherly love continue. (Hebrews 13:1)

### I. The Problem Defined (James 4:1-6)

- Conflicts come from the Quest for Pleasure: James 4:1 *What is the source of quarrels and conflicts among you? Is not the source your pleasures that wage war in your members?* What is the opposite of making your pleasure a priority? Philippians 2:3,4
- Conflicts come from Wanting what you Cannot Have: James 4:2,3 <sup>2</sup> *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. <sup>3</sup> You ask and do not receive, because you ask with wrong motives, so that you may spend it on your pleasures.*
  - You do not have because you do not ask
  - You ask with the wrong motives
- Conflicts come from Taking the Wrong Side: James 4:4,5 <sup>4</sup> *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. <sup>5</sup> Or do you think that the Scripture speaks to no purpose: “He jealously desires the Spirit which He has made to dwell in us”?*
- Conflicts come from a Lack of Humility: James 4:6 <sup>6</sup> *But He gives a greater grace. Therefore it says, “God is opposed to the proud, but gives grace to the humble.”*: Proverbs 3:34 ; Psalm 138:6 ; Isaiah 57:15

### II. The Solution Supplied from God (James 4:7-10)

<sup>7</sup> *Submit therefore to God. Resist the devil and he will flee from you. <sup>8</sup> Draw near to God and He will draw near to you. Cleanse your hands, you sinners; and purify your hearts, you double-minded. <sup>9</sup> Be miserable and mourn and weep; let your laughter be turned into mourning and your joy to gloom. <sup>10</sup> Humble yourselves in the presence of the Lord, and He will exalt you.*

- Submit therefore to God
- Resist the devil
- Draw near to God
- Cleanse your hands
- Purify your hearts
- Be miserable
- Mourn
- Weep
- Let your laughter be turned into mourning and your joy to gloom
- Humble yourselves in the presence of the Lord

<i>The Problem (James 4:1-6)</i>	<i>The Solution (James 4:7-10)</i>
Quarrels and conflicts from focusing on your pleasures (4:1).	Submit therefore to God, resist the devil, draw near to God (4:8).
Spiritual murder (4:2).	Cleanse your hands (4:8).
Problems in prayer (4:3).	Purify your hearts (4:8).
Spiritual adultery (4:4-5).	Be miserable, mourn and weep (4:9).
God is opposed to the proud but gives grace to the humble (4:6).	Humble yourselves in the presence of the Lord (4:10).

### III. The Solution Applied Toward Men (James 4:11-12)

<sup>11</sup> *Do not speak against one another, brethren. He who speaks against a brother or judges his brother, speaks against the law and judges the law; but if you judge the law, you are not a doer of the law but a judge of it. <sup>12</sup> There is only one Lawgiver and Judge, the One who is able to save and to destroy; but who are you who judge your neighbor?*

<i>Verses 7-10</i>	<i>Verses 11-12</i>
Looks at the believer's relationship with God	Looks at the believer's relationship with other men
Commands given in the aorist tense	Command given in the present tense