

JAMES
A Call to Humility
James 4:1-12
September 24th, 2023

The Cause of Quarrels and Fighting is Jealousy & Selfish Ambition (vv. 1-3)

“Not many of you should become teachers.” James 3:1a (ESV)

“Who is wise and understanding among you?” James 3:13a (ESV)

“By his good conduct let him show his works in the meekness of wisdom.” James 3:13b (ESV)

¹ What causes quarrels and what causes fights among you? Is it not this, that your passions are at war within you?

“For where jealousy and selfish ambition exist, there will be disorder and every vile practice.” James 3:16 (ESV)

² You desire and do not have, so you murder.

“Everyone who hates his brother is a murderer.” 1 John 3:15 (ESV)

You covet and cannot obtain, so you fight and quarrel.

You do not have, because you do not ask.

“If any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask God, who gives generously to all without reproach, and it will be given him.” James 1:5 (ESV)

³ You ask and do not receive, because you ask wrongly, to spend it on your passions.

⁶ So when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, and that it was a delight to the eyes, and that the tree was to be desired to make one wise,^[b] she took of its fruit and ate, and she also gave some to her husband who was with her, and he ate.” Genesis 3:6 (ESV)

³ Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility count others more significant than yourselves. ⁴ Let each of you look not only to his own interests, but also to the interests of others.” James 2:3-4 (ESV)

“You make known to me the path of life; in your presence there is fullness of joy; at your right hand are **pleasures** forevermore.” Psalm 16:11 (ESV)

**The Remedy for Jealousy & Selfish Ambition, and Fighting is Repentance and Humility.
(vv. 4-12)**

⁴ You adulterous people!

“The abrupt and harsh *you adulterous people* marks the beginning of one of the most strongly worded calls to repent that we find anywhere in the New Testament. Here, if anywhere we find the heart of James’s letter.” Douglas Moo

Do you not know that friendship with the world is enmity with God? Therefore whoever wishes to be a friend of the world makes himself an enemy of God.

⁷ For the mind that is set on the flesh is hostile to God, for it does not submit to God's law; indeed, it cannot. ⁸ Those who are in the flesh cannot please God.” Romans 8:7-8 (ESV)

“God tolerates no rival. When believers behave in a worldly manner, they demonstrate that, at that point, their allegiance is to the world rather than to God.” Douglas Moo

⁵ Or do you suppose it is to no purpose that the Scripture says, “He yearns jealously over the spirit that he has made to dwell in us”?

“You shall not bow down to them or serve [idols], for I the Lord your God am a jealous God.” Exodus 20:5 (ESV)

“For you shall worship no other god, for the Lord, whose name is Jealous, is a jealous God.” Exodus 34:14 (ESV)

⁶ But he gives more grace.

Therefore it says, “God opposes the proud but gives grace to the humble.”

“Toward the scorers he is scornful, but to the humble he gives favor.” Proverbs 3:34 (ESV)

“For thus says the One who is high and lifted up, who inhabits eternity, whose name is Holy: I dwell in the high and holy place, and also with him who is of a contrite and lowly spirit, to revive the spirit of the lowly, and to revive the heart of the contrite.” Isaiah 57:15 (ESV)

Thus says the Lord: “Heaven is my throne, and the earth is my footstool; what is the house that you would build for me, and what is the place of my rest? ² All these things my hand has made, and so all these things came to be, declares the Lord. But this is the one to whom I will look: he who is humble and contrite in spirit and trembles at my word.” Isaiah 66:1-2 (ESV)

Commands that Describe the way to Humility

⁷ Submit yourselves therefore to God.

Resist the devil, and he will flee from you.

⁸ Draw near to God, and he will draw near to you.

Cleanse your hands, you sinners,

“If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.” 1 John 1:9 (ESV)

and purify your hearts, you double-minded.

⁹ Be wretched and mourn and weep.

“For godly grief produces a repentance that leads to salvation without regret, whereas worldly grief produces death.” 2 Corinthians 7:10 (ESV)

Let your laughter be turned to mourning and your joy to gloom.

¹⁰ Humble yourselves before the Lord, and he will exalt you.

¹¹ Do not speak evil against one another, brothers.^[d] The one who speaks against a brother or judges his brother, speaks evil against the law and judges the law. But if you judge the law, you are not a doer of the law but a judge. ¹² There is only one lawgiver and judge, he who is able to save and to destroy. But who are you to judge your neighbor?”