

Improving Your Relationships

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James 3:13 – 4:10

Maranatha Community Church

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What causes fights and quarrels among you? Don't they come from your desires that battle within you?

James 4:1

Peacemakers who sow in peace raise a harvest of righteousness. What causes fights and quarrels among you? Don't they come from your desires that battle within you?

James 3:18-4:1

Who is wise and understanding among you? Let him show it by his good life, by deeds done in the humility that comes from wisdom.

James 3:13

If any of you lacks wisdom, he should ask God, who gives generously to all without finding fault, and it will be given to him.

James 1:5

But if you harbor bitter envy and selfish ambition in your hearts, do not boast about it or deny the truth. Such "wisdom" does not come down from heaven but is earthly, unspiritual, of the devil. For where you have envy and selfish ambition, there you find disorder and every evil practice.

James 3:14-16

a) evidenced by "bitter envy and selfish ambition"

b) is earthly, unspiritual, of the devil

c) a source of "disorder and every evil practice"

But the wisdom that comes from heaven is first of all pure; then peace-loving, considerate, submissive, full of mercy and good fruit, impartial and sincere.

James 3:17

1) pure

Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit, but in humility consider others better than yourselves.

Philippians 2:3

2) peace-loving

It is to a man's honor to avoid strife, but every fool is quick to quarrel.

Proverbs 20:3

3) considerate

4) submissive

5) full of mercy

6) and good fruit

7) impartial

8) sincere

Peacemakers who sow in peace raise a harvest of righteousness.

James 3:18

Remember this: Whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows generously will also reap generously.

2 Corinthians 9:6

1) CAUSE OF CONFLICT

What causes fights and quarrels among you? Don't they come from your desires that battle within you? You want something but don't get it. You kill and covet, but you cannot have what you want. You quarrel and fight. You do not have, because you do not ask God. When you ask, you do not receive, because you ask with wrong motives, that you may spend what you get on your pleasures.

James 4:1-3

Pride only breeds quarrels, but wisdom is found in those who take advice.

Proverbs 13:10

You have heard that it was said to the people long ago, 'Do not murder, and anyone who murders will be subject to judgment.' But I tell you that anyone who is angry with his brother will be subject to judgment. Again, anyone who says to his brother, 'Raca,' is answerable to the Sanhedrin. But anyone who says, 'You fool!' will be in danger of the fire of hell.

Matthew 5:21-22

2) CONSEQUENCES OF CONFLICT

**You adulterous people, don't you know that friendship with the world is hatred toward God? Anyone who chooses to be a friend of the world becomes an enemy of God. Or do you think Scripture says without reason that the spirit he caused to live in us envies intensely?
James 4:4-5**

**He who is not with me is against me, and he who does not gather with me scatters.
Matthew 12:30**

3) CURE FOR CONFLICT

**But he gives us more grace. That is why Scripture says: "God opposes the proud but gives grace to the humble." Submit yourselves, then, to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you. Come near to God and he will come near to you. Wash your hands, you sinners, and purify your hearts, you double-minded. Grieve, mourn and wail. Change your laughter to mourning and your joy to gloom. Humble yourselves before the Lord, and he will lift you up.
James 4:6-10**

a) submit to God

**Therefore, I urge you, brothers, in view of God's mercy, to offer your bodies as living sacrifices, holy and pleasing to God ... this is your spiritual act of worship.
Romans 12:1**

b) resist the devil

**If it is possible, as far as it depends on you, live at peace with everyone.
Romans 12:18**

b) come near to God

**So he got up and went to his father. "But while he was still a long way off, his father saw him and was filled with compassion for him; he ran to his son, threw his arms around him and kissed him.
Luke 15:20**

d) ask for forgiveness and honestly repent

**Humble yourselves before the Lord, and he will lift you up.
James 4:10**

**Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit, but in humility consider others better than yourselves.
Philippians 2:3**