

A photograph of a person from behind, wearing a white t-shirt and dark pants, with their arms outstretched to the sides. The person's hair is tied up in a bun. The background is a plain, light-colored wall.

# Just Grow Up!

James - A Manual for Maturity

## The Cure for Conflict

July 15 & 16, 2023

### James 4:1-10 (NLT)

What is causing the quarrels and fights among you? Don't they come from the evil desires at war within you? You want what you don't have, so you scheme and kill to get it. You are jealous of what others have, but you can't get it, so you fight and wage war to take it away from them. Yet you don't have what you want because you don't ask God for it. And even when you ask, you don't get it because your motives are all wrong—you want only what will give you pleasure.

You adulterers! Don't you realize that friendship with the world makes you an enemy of God? I say it again: If you want to be a friend of the world, you make yourself an enemy of God. Do you think the Scriptures have no meaning? They say that God is passionate that the spirit he has placed within us should be faithful to him. And he gives grace generously. As the Scriptures say,

“God opposes the proud  
but gives grace to the humble.”

So humble yourselves before God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you. Come close to God, and God will come close to you. Wash your hands, you sinners; purify your hearts, for your loyalty is divided between God and the world. Let there be tears for what you have done. Let there be sorrow and deep grief. Let there be sadness instead of laughter, and gloom instead of joy. Humble yourselves before the Lord, and he will lift you up in honor.

### 3 Causes of Conflict:

1. We love possessions more than people.

*Verses 1b-2a (NLT)*

*Don't they come from the evil desires at war within you?*

*You want what you don't have, so you scheme and kill to get it.*

2. We want to control others.

*Verse 2b (NLT)*

*You are jealous of what others have, but you can't get it, so you fight and wage war to take it away from them. Yet you don't have what you want because you don't ask God for it.*

## How we combat the temptation to control:

- We must pray constantly.
- We must declare war on selfishness.

### Proverbs 13:10 (TPT)

Wisdom opens your heart to receive wise counsel, but pride closes your ears to advice and gives birth only to quarrels and strife.

### 3. We prefer pleasure over our passion for God.

#### Verses 3-5 (NLT)

*And even when you ask, you don't get it because your motives are all wrong—you want only what will give you pleasure. You adulterers! Don't you realize that friendship with the world makes you an enemy of God? I say it again: If you want to be a friend of the world, you make yourself an enemy of God. Do you think the Scriptures have no meaning? They say that God is passionate that the spirit he has placed within us should be faithful to him.*

## What attitude is necessary for curing conflict?

### Humble myself before God.

#### Verses 6, 10 (NLT)

*And he gives grace generously. As the Scriptures say, "God opposes the proud but gives grace to the humble." ...Humble yourselves before the Lord, and he will lift you up in honor.*

## 4 Cures to Conflict:

### **1** Choose to serve God's purposes rather than my preferences.

#### Verse 7a (TPT)

*So then, surrender to God.*

#### Colossians 3:15-17 (GW)

Also, let Christ's peace control you. God has called you into this peace by bringing you into one body. Be thankful. Let Christ's word with all its wisdom and richness live in you. Use psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs to teach and instruct yourselves about God's kindness. Sing to God in your hearts. Everything you say or do should be done in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.

### **2** Understand Satan's tricks and resist him.

#### Verse 7b (NLT)

*Resist the devil, and he will flee from you.*

## **2 Corinthians 11:14-15 (TPT)**

That doesn't surprise us, for even Satan transforms himself to appear as an angel of light! So it's no wonder his servants also go about pretending to be ministers of righteousness. But in the end they will be exposed and get exactly what they deserve.

## **3**

### **Return to the closeness with God you had when you were first saved.**

#### **Verse 8a (TPT)**

*Move your heart closer and closer to God, and he will come even closer to you.*

#### **Isaiah 26:3 (NIV)**

You will keep in perfect peace those whose minds are steadfast, because they trust in you.

## **4**

### **Expect God to lift you up from the pit of conflict.**

#### **Verses 8b-9 (NLT)**

*Wash your hands, you sinners; purify your hearts, for your loyalty is divided between God and the world. Let there be tears for what you have done. Let there be sorrow and deep grief. Let there be sadness instead of laughter, and gloom instead of joy.*

#### **Verse 10 (TPT)**

*Be willing to be made low before the Lord and he will exalt you!*

#### **Ephesians 4:26-27, 32 (TPT)**

But don't let the passion of your emotions lead you to sin! Don't let anger control you or be fuel for revenge, not for even a day. Don't give the slanderous accuser, the Devil, an opportunity to manipulate you! ... But instead be kind and affectionate toward one another. Has God graciously forgiven you? Then graciously forgive one another in the depths of Christ's love.

**Do whatever it takes to resolve conflict and achieve peace.**

### **4 Cures to Conflict:**

**C**hoose to serve God's purposes rather than my preferences.

**U**nderstand Satan's tricks and resist him.

**R**eturn to the closeness with God you had when you were first saved.

**E**xpect God to lift you up from the pit of conflict.

### **Memory Verse**

#### **James 4:6 (NLT)**

And he gives grace generously. As the Scriptures say, "God opposes the proud but gives grace to the humble."



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