

**James 4:1 - 12 (NASB)**

- <sup>1</sup>What is the source of quarrels and conflicts among you? Is not the source your pleasures that wage war in your members?
- <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.
- <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”?
- <sup>6</sup>But He gives a greater grace. Therefore *it* says, “GOD IS OPPOSED TO THE PROUD, BUT GIVES GRACE TO THE HUMBLE.”
- <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.
- <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?

**“What causes fights and quarrels among you?” (NIV) Among Christians!**

“Behold, how good and how pleasant it is for brethren to dwell together in unity” (Ps. 133:1).

**Surely *brethren* should live together in love and harmony, yet often they do not.**

- Lot caused a quarrel with his Uncle Abraham (Gen. 13).
- Absalom created a war for his father David (2 Sam. 13-18).
- Even the disciples created problems for the Lord when they argued over who was the greatest in the kingdom (Luke 9:46-48).

**When you examine some of the early churches, you discover that they had their share of disagreements.**

- The members of the Corinthian church were competing with each other in the public meetings, and even suing each other in court (1 Cor. 6:1-8; 14:23-40).
- The Galatian believers were “biting and devouring” one another (Gal. 5:15).
- Paul had to admonish the Ephesians to cultivate spiritual unity (Eph. 4:1-16);
- Even the church at Philippi had problems: two women could not get along with each other (Phil. 4:1-3).
- James mentioned several different kinds of disagreements among the saints.

**It is helpful to examine in prayer how well we are doing at loving our neighbor as we love ourselves. We can ask God to help us examine our way. Several questions to ask are:**

1. Have I given myself the benefit of the doubt, but refused it to my brother or sister?
2. Have I made excuses for my shortcomings, but remained intolerant of others?
3. Have I judged my brothers and sisters according to the letter of the law while expecting grace for myself?

**MONDAY MORNING MOMENT:** Action Step - “I will thoroughly examine myself and look for ways to improve my attitude.

**Romans 7:23 (NASB)** <sup>23</sup>but I see a different law in the members of my body, waging war against the law of my mind and making me a prisoner of the law of sin which is in my members.