



Church Fights

Text: James 4:1-12

Series: Book of James (#8)

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January 25, 2026

Theme: **A living faith defeats conflict.**

Describing the problem.

1. The nature and source.

(1; see also 2 Corinthians 13:11; Philippians 2:3-4, 14; Colossians 3:12)

2. The dynamics.

(2-3; see also Matthew 5:21-22; 6:11; John 16:24; James 1:5-7; 1 John 3:15; 5:14)

Rebuking the problem.

1. It is a form of spiritual adultery.

(4; see also Isaiah 57:3; Jeremiah 3:9; 20; 5:7; Ezekiel 16:31; 28:37; Hosea 4:13; Acts 20:28; 1 Corinthians 11:25; Ephesians 1:7; 1 Peter 1:17-19)

2. It disregards God's jealousy and grace.

(4-6; see also Exodus 20:5; 34:14; Deuteronomy 4:24; 5:9; 6:15; Joshua 24:19; Psalm 138:6; Proverbs 3:34; Matthew 23:12; Romans 5:20; 1 Peter 5:5)

Solving the problem.

1. Return to God. (17; see also Hebrews 4:16; 10:22)

2. Resist Satan. (7; see also Ephesians 6:10-18; Jude 1:9)

3. Restore purity and humility. (8-10; see also 1 Corinthians 11:31; Ephesians 4:29)

4. Refrain from being a critic and judge.

(11-12; see also Matthew 7:1; 18:15-20; Luke 17:3; John 7:24; Romans 14:1-23; 1 Timothy 5:20; 2 Timothy 4:2; Titus 2:15)

In My Life This Week

As you use this daily guide, write out your observations and responses on a separate piece of paper and save them with this sheet for reference.

Monday. Read James 4:1-12. The starting point to applying the truth of these verses is with yourself. Read the verses again, specifically directing them to only yourself. Now do an inventory: write out a list of quarrels and conflicts in which you have been or are involved, the small and private as well as larger and more public.

Tuesday. Go over your list of quarrels and conflicts. As you look at each one remember it is destructive (verse 2), an act of spiritual adultery (verse 4) and a blatant disregard of God's jealousy for your character and conduct as well as His grace. Confess your sin in these quarrels and conflicts to God.

Wednesday. The solution to ending quarrels and conflicts and preventing new ones is based on spiritual discipline. Verses 7-10 give us the first three of four *Rs* in this discipline (see the *Solving the Problem* part of the outline). Review the verses, apply them to yourself and make the decision to act and begin now (write out the first steps you will take).

Thursday. The last *R* for solving quarrels and conflicts is to refrain from being a critic and judge of others (go over verses 11-12). Put this truth together with Ephesians 4:29 to guard and guide your thoughts, speech and actions.

Friday – Saturday. On Sunday we plan to look at *Practical Christian Atheism*, from 4:13 – 5:6. Read and think through this section in preparation for our time together.