

Enlightened:Part 5- Fights and Quarrels

ICE BREAKER QUESTIONS

1. If you had to delete all but 3 apps from your smartphone, which ones would you keep?
2. What is your favorite item you've bought this year?

WORD

James 4:1-3 (ESV)

*1 What causes quarrels and what causes fights among you? Is it not this, that your **passions** are at war within you? 2 You **desire** and do not have, so you murder. You **covet** and cannot obtain, so you fight and quarrel. You do not have, because you do not ask. 3 You ask and do not receive, because you ask wrongly, to spend it on your passions.*

In this chapter James gives the true cause of conflicts and quarrels among the believers among the church; and warned them against their passions that are war within them, their desire and not having it so they murder , and what they want to obtain that they want to covet it All of this causes them to fight and quarrel.

What is true among churches is also true in our home.

Many Christian homes are wrecked by conflict rather than *filled with the sweet aroma of the peace of Christ Jesus our Lord.*

Many Christian churches or congregation are wrecked by conflict and divided because of *quarrels rather than displaying the forgiving grace of our Lord Jesus Christ.*

Sometimes we idealize the early church. We think, "It must have been great to be a part of the first century church! It was so dynamic and powerful. They had such sweet fellowship!"

But the reality is, the early church was formed and forged through persecution and oppression, and people haven't changed over time! Many (if not all!) first century churches wrestled with conflicts between the members.

There are 2 things James mention here that causes fight and quarrel:

***Passion**

Romans 7:21-23 (NIV).

So I find this law at work: Although I want to do good, evil is right there with me. 22 For in my inner being I delight in God's law; 23 but I see another law at work in me, waging war against the law of my mind and making me a prisoner of the law of sin at work within me

***Desire**

1 Peter 2:11 (NLT)

11 Dear friends, I warn you as "temporary residents and foreigners" to keep away from worldly desires that wage war against your very souls.

DISCUSSION

1. What was the cause of your recent fight and quarrel? How did you resolve it?
2. Are all conflicts wrong? If not, when and how can we know that we are fighting for the right cause, not for sinful reasons?

LIFE APPLICATION

Some practical ways to avoid conflicts, quarrels and fight among us.

*Submit your heart. (Is your heart belongs to Christ?)

James 4:1 (ESV)1

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

*Submit your motives. (Is Christ being glorified).

James 4:2a (ESV) 2 *You desire and do not have, so you murder...*

*Submit your ways. (What you do should be edifying and encouraging the body of Christ?).

James 4:2b (ESV) *...You covet and cannot obtain, so you fight and quarrel.*

VERSE TO MEDITATE ON

Romans 7:24-25 (NIV)

24 Oh, what a miserable person I am! Who will free me from this life that is dominated by sin and death? Thank God! The answer is in Jesus Christ our Lord.

PRAYER

Share your answered prayer. Pray for one another and throughout this week.