

What causes fights and quarrels among you? Don't they come from your desires that battle within you? You desire but do not have, so you kill. You covet but you cannot get what you want, so 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 NIV

The cause of conflicts: unmet desires

What causes fights and quarrels among you? Don't they come from your desires that battle within you? (v. 1).

Three Desires:

- The desire to have (possessions)

You want what you don't have . . . you long for what others have . . . (v. 2).

- The desire to feel (pleasure)

“ . . . you want only what will give you pleasure (v. 3b).

- The desire to be (pride & power)

Pride leads to arguments . . . Proverbs 13:10

The Progression:

1. Desire

Blessed [joyful, nourished by God's goodness] are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness [those who actively seek right standing with God], for they will be [completely] satisfied. Matthew 5:6 AMP

2. Demand

They are headed for destruction. Their god is their appetite, they brag about shameful things, and they think only about this life here on earth. Philippians 3:19 NLT

3. Judgment

Who is wise and understanding among you? Let them show it by their good life, by deeds done in the humility that comes from wisdom. 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, demonic. James 3:13-15 NIV

4. Punishment

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. James 4:2 NLT

Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit. Rather, in humility value others above yourselves, not looking to your own interests but each of you to the interests of the others. In your relationships with one another, have the same mindset as Christ Jesus. Philippians 2:3-5 NIV

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