

STRAIGHT TALK

Part 10: Rancorous Animosity among Christian

James 4:1-12

The Problem: Christians at each other's **THROATS**

vs. 1-3

ACTIONS: Quarrels, Fighting, Murder, Coveting

SOURCE: **HEDONISTIC** Passions and Desires

The Outcome: Christians living as **ENEMIES** of God

vs. 4-6

FRIENDSHIP w/ the world = **ENMITY** with God

The Solution: Higher living means lowering **PRIDE**

vs. 7-12

A good dose of **HUMILITY** and **REPENTANCE** before God

vs. 7-10

JUDGEMENTALISM violates the Scripture you're promoting!

vs. 11-12

Auburn Grace Community Church – March 16th, 2025

Life Group Discussion Questions – March 16, 2025

James 4:1-3 *What causes quarrels and what causes fights among you? Is it not this, that your passions are at war within you? 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. You ask and do not receive, because you ask wrongly, to spend it on your passions. (ESV)*

DISCOVER

1. Reflect and share on what has changed in church during your time as a believer? Has something been lost that was special to you? Explain. What has been gained that is special to you? List some fundamentals that should never change in church. Are any of the fundamentals, that were just listed, personal preferences and not biblical mandates? How can we discern between preferences and biblical mandates?
2. Psalm 133:1 and many other scriptures emphasize believers living in unity. Unity requires action. Describe some of the actions in church that lead to unity. In contrast, pride, selfishness, and lack of forgiveness can lead to problems in church. How do we guard against such sins?
3. Sometimes we try and do the right thing in church but miss the mark. Share some examples that you have observed. Did leaders have good intentions? Where should we turn when mistakes are made?

EXPLORE (Read James 4:1-12)

1. One of the sticking points in the early church was less emphasis on reading the Torah. Instead of causing division and anger, how might early church leaders have guided believers?
2. See verse 7. What actions are associated with submission? How is submission to God related to resisting the devil? If someone just tries to resist the devil without kneeling before God, what is the likely outcome?
3. Verse 10 emphasizes humility and exaltation. Share some of the ways that God has humbled you. Why is humility so important in everyday life? How does humility play into church unity?
4. What does it mean for God to exalt someone? Describe the impact on you if God put His hand on your shoulder and said “well done good and faithful servant.”
5. Read Leviticus 19:15-18. Explain some of the damage that can be the result of judging the motives of fellow believers or church leaders. When we are judgmental, what harm are we causing ourselves? Who are we sinning against when we are judgmental?

EXPERIENCE

1. Fleshly passions, desires and preferences lead to division. In other words, some believe in Jesus but keep one foot in worldliness. What is the antidote to such poison?
2. James spoke sternly in order to squelch vicious activity. Have you been the one to speak sternly to another believer or have you been the recipient of stern talk? Share the situation and lessons learned. See 2 Timothy 2:14-26.
3. The early church wrestled with reverence for the Torah versus new-found freedom from the Law. How does this balancing act continue in our lives today? In the life of the church?

PRAY

Father God, You are the perfect example of unity in the Holy Trinity of Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. We know full well, that we should mirror Your example in the church today and tomorrow. Open our eyes to areas where we try and push our fleshly preferences into the lives of others especially at church. In heart and action, we want to bring unity to Your church without forgoing biblical truth. May Your will be done forevermore. In Jesus name, Amen.