

## Life Group Homework

### Why Do Christians Quarrel?

#### James 4:1-6

#### Let's Get Started

Combative relationships is the theme of this week's study in James. Conflict with each other and conflict in the church is not God's will or design. Jesus told His disciples, "*By this all people will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another*" (**John 13:35**). We all know the law of cause and effect.

In your own words, what is the root cause and the effect of quarrels and conflicts among Christians in the church?

TV reality shows are a huge hit these days. They thrive on human conflict. Why do you think people are so fascinated with them and compelled to watch them?

#### Let's Go Deeper

##### THE PROBLEM

James begins with a question and then answers it himself. The reason for church conflict, he says, is that *our passions are at war within us*.

How would you explain what James is saying? To what passions do you think James is referring?

Let's laugh at ourselves for a moment. What would you say are some of the silliest and petty things church members argue and take sides about in the church?

When we are born again, the Bible says we receive a new nature to help overcome the old nature. Many of us try valiantly to reform and tame the old nature with behavioral control and sin management tactics. Why don't these tactics work?

According to **Galatians 5:16**, what is the strategy for overcoming the old sinful nature of a human being?

How would you describe “walking by the Spirit?” How does it work? (Hint: **Galatians 5:22-24**)

Read **1 John 4:20-21**. Is loving brothers and sisters in the church optional? Is there a choice?

Read **Matthew 5:21-22**. Do you think Jesus actually means what he says here? Isn't this pretty radical thinking?

What is the consistent theme running through these two scriptures?

**Romans 12:2**

**1 John 2:15**

In **James 4:4**, he goes so far as to say that making friends with the world makes us an enemy with God. How can you love the world like God says he does (**John 3:16**), and yet not be friends with the world?

## **THE SOLUTION**

Most of us have no problem getting along with people we like and love. Jesus takes “loving people” to a whole new level in **Matthew 5:43-46**. To what level does He take it?

In his sermon, Pastor Jerry indicated that when we sense a quarrel coming on, there are two questions we should ask ourselves. Do you recall what they were?

1. Have I p \_\_\_ \_ \_ \_ d about this?
2. Do I want something for my \_\_\_ \_ \_ \_ or do I truly want G \_\_\_ \_ 's will?

In **2 Corinthians 3:18**, Paul wrote, *“And we all, with unveiled face, beholding the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from one degree of glory to another. For this comes from the Lord who is the Spirit.”*

What was the significance of Paul choosing the expression “unveiled face?”

He is indicating that the key to transformation as Christians has something to do with “unveiling.” Unveiling what?

### **Let's Live It Out Together**

Have someone in the group read **Matthew 5:9** and **Romans 12:18**.

Consider ending your group time this week with open prayer for God’s intervention in the violence, unrest, and destructive behavior that is tearing our nation’s cities and people apart. Pray for Christians in America to stand united in prayer this week.

James 4:3 says, *“You ask and do not receive, because you ask wrongly, to spend it on your passions.”*