

July 12, 2015  
James 4:1-10

## AVOIDING ARGUMENTS

### I. Introduction:

### II. The Cause of Arguments: \_\_\_\_\_

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

#### THREE DESIRES

- \* The Desire \_\_\_\_\_ (Possessions)

*"You want something but don't get it. You kill and you covet, but you cannot have what you want."  
(vs. 2)*

- \* The Desire \_\_\_\_\_ (Pleasure)

*"...that you may spend what you get on your pleasures. (Vs. 3)*

- \* The Desire \_\_\_\_\_ (Pride & Power)

*"Pride only breeds quarrels. Proverbs. 13:10*

Why aren't our desires fulfilled?

**We don't** \_\_\_\_\_: *"You do not have, because you do not ask God. When you ask, you do not receive, because you ask with wrong motives..." (vs. 2-3)*

\_\_\_\_\_ **with God:** *"God opposes the proud but gives grace to the humble." (vs. 6)*

**III. THE CURE FOR ARGUMENTS:**\_\_\_\_\_

*"God opposes the proud but gives grace to the humble.  
(Vs. 6)*

*Humble yourself before the Lord, and he will lift you up."  
(vs. 10)*

**Steps to Defusing Conflict**

1. \_\_\_\_\_  
*"Submit yourselves then to God ..." (vs. 7a)*

2. \_\_\_\_\_  
*"Resist the devil, and he will flee from you." (vs.7b)*

3. \_\_\_\_\_  
*"Come near to God and He will come near to you." (vs. 8a)*

4. \_\_\_\_\_  
*"Wash your hands, you sinners, and purify your hearts  
..." (vs. 8b)*

**IV. Conclusion and Application: (See Points To Ponder)**

**Points To Ponder**  
**Avoiding Arguments**  
**James 4:1-10**

**Open It**

1. If you could ask God for anything, what would it be?
2. \*What do families and friends commonly fight about?

**Explore It**

3. What are the battles going on inside a person? (4:1-2)
4. \*What is the root cause of fights and quarrels between people? (4:1-3)
5. Why don't people have what they want? (4:2)
6. Why doesn't God give some people what they ask for? (4:3)
7. What does friendship with the world do to our relationship with God? (4:4)
8. Whom does God oppose and favor? (4:6)
9. \*When does God give us grace? (4:6)
10. \*How did James describe the way we should come to God? (4:7-10)
11. How does the devil react when a person resists him? (4:7)
12. What does God do to us when we have an attitude of humility before Him? (4:10)

### **Get It**

13. What do most people think God wants from them?
14. How has your belief about what God wants from you changed over the years?
15. How does pride show up in our work? home? church? community?
16. Why does God oppose people who are proud?
17. \*What is the difference between pride and a sense of accomplishment?
18. How can a person tell when he or she has become proud?
19. \*How can we reduce or remove the pride from our lives?
20. What do we want from God most of the time?
21. Why do we hesitate to give our lives to God?

### **Apply It**

22. What sins of action and attitude do you need to confess to God today?
23. What can you do this week to draw near to God?
24. In what situations do you need to resist the devil this week?
25. \*What can you do this week to help you bring more humility into your life?