

DIGGING DEEPER

1. Looking back at your sermon notes, was there anything that particularly caught your attention, was new, challenging, or confusing to you?

2. React to what we heard in the sermon: “We each have a civil war raging inside of us, and when we seek our pleasures, our comfort, our convenience, at the cost of others, the result is a civil war among us.”

3. How have you seen “your life” played out in your relationships?

4. How does selfishness affect your life and others around you?

5. Are you willing to applied Luke 9:23 in your life?

Grace Norwalk. - **James Pt. 14. 4:1-10**
“**Can’t we all just get along?**” Pastor Oscar Chavez

James is of the mindset that if you profess to be a believer, you must **possess what you profess**

In Chapter 3 James was talking to us about that kind of wisdom we live by.....

the **SOURCE**, the **PRACTICE**, and the **OUTCOME**

<p>V.17-18 Wisdom from Heaven</p> <p><u>Selfless</u> Results ¹⁸ Peacemakers who sow in peace reap a harvest of righteousness.</p>	<p>V.14-16 Wisdom earthly, unspiritual, demonic.</p> <p><u>Selfish ambition</u> Results ¹⁶ For where you have envy and selfish ambition, there you find disorder and every evil practice.</p>
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James wants Christians to keep on examining themselves....

James 4:1-10

¹ *What causes wars and fights among you? Don't they come from your desires that battle within you?*
² *You desire but do not have, so you kill. You covet but you cannot get what you want, so you quarrel and fight.*

As a result of our selfishness, James tells us about three conflicts it brings to our lives at

I. Our SELFISHNESS results in conflicts with other people V.1-2b

The battles between us come from the battle within us

“The heart of the problem is the problem of the heart”

The cause of conflicts is

^{1b} **“Our desires that battle within us”**

Desires = GK Hedon - English- Hedonism =

This word connotes the gratification of sensual, natural, fleshly desires.

Hedon = Pleasure is the chief goal, is the desire to avoid pain at any cost but getting what I want...

Egotistical hedonism requires a person to consider only his or her own pleasure (Opinion) in making choices. It doesn't matter who I hurt, it doesn't matter if it is wrong as long as it feels good to them

Philippians 2:3-4 NIV

³ *Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit. Rather, in humility value others above yourselves,*

⁴ *not looking to your own interests but each of you to the interests of the others.*

NLT

³ *Don't be selfish; don't try to impress others. Be humble, thinking of others as better than yourselves.*⁴ *Don't look out only for your own interests, but take an interest in others, too.*

James 4:2a

^{2a} **You desire but do not have, so you kill.**

Matt. 5

²¹ *"You have heard that our ancestors were told, 'You must not murder. If you commit murder, you are subject to judgment.'*²² *But I say, if you are even angry with someone, you are subject to judgment! If you call someone an idiot, you are in danger of being brought before the court. And if you curse someone, you are in danger of the fires of hell.*

^{2b} **You covet but you cannot get what you want, so you quarrel and fight.**

II. Our SELFISHNESS results in unanswered prayer V.2b-3

^{2c} *You do not have because you do not ask God.*

³ *When you ask, you do not receive, because you ask with wrong motives, that you may spend what you get on your pleasures*

Does your prayer reveal a hedonistic heart?

III. Our SELFISHNESS results in the conflict with our relationship with God V.4-5

⁴ *You adulterous people, don't you know that friendship with the world means enmity against God? Therefore, anyone who chooses to be a friend of the world becomes an enemy of God.* ⁵ *Or do you think Scripture says without reason that he jealously longs for the spirit he has caused to dwell in us?*

IV. What is the solution to cure the selfishness that is destroying us?

People use filters in social media to change their pictures but they don't use God's values to change their life...

⁶ **But he gives us more grace. That is why Scripture says:**

^{6b} **"God opposes the proud but shows favor to the humble."**

James Five Medications to cure the problem, These are commands to follow with a promise

1. ⁷ **Submit yourselves, then, to God.**

2. **Resist the devil, and he will flee from you.**

3. ⁸ **Come near to God and he will come near to you.** Wash your hands, you sinners, and purify your hearts, you double-minded.

4. ⁹ **Grieve, mourn and wail.** Change your laughter to mourning and your joy to gloom.

Matt. 5:4 *God blesses those who mourn, for they will be comforted.*

5. ¹⁰ **Humble yourselves before the Lord,** and he will lift you up.