



ConnectChurch

Mid-Week Bible Study:
“Taming Areas of Our Lives”
Lesson One:
“Taming Conflict”
Wednesday, July 10, 2019



Midweek Bible Study:

Series Entitled: "Taming Areas of Our Lives"

Lesson One: "Taming Conflicts"

The word taming means:

- To make docile or submissive
- To reduce from wild to a domestic state
- To bring under control
- To tone down or soften

There are some areas in our lives that need taming!

The word conflict means:

- A fight; a Battle; a War
- Discord and Disharmony
- Division; Friction; & Strife

There are some areas in our lives that have conflicts!

We need to tame some areas of our lives through a process of "Being a Better Me"

Our Foundational Scripture:

James 4:1-10

"What is the source of quarrels and conflicts among you? Is not the source your pleasures that wage war in your members? ²You lust and do not have; so you commit murder. You are envious and cannot obtain; so you fight and quarrel. You do not have because you do not ask. ³You ask and do not receive, because you ask with wrong motives, so that you may spend *it* on your pleasures. ⁴You adulteresses, do you not know that friendship with the world is hostility toward God? Therefore whoever wishes to be a friend of the world makes himself an enemy of God. ⁵Or do you think that the Scripture speaks to no purpose: "He jealously desires the Spirit which He has made to dwell in us"? ⁶But He gives a greater grace. Therefore *it* says, "GOD IS OPPOSED TO THE PROUD, BUT GIVES GRACE TO THE HUMBLE."⁷ Submit therefore to God. Resist the devil and he will flee from you. ⁸Draw near to God and He will draw near to you. Cleanse your hands, you sinners; and purify your hearts, you double-minded.

⁹Be miserable and mourn and weep; let your laughter be turned into mourning and your joy to gloom. ¹⁰Humble yourselves in the presence of the Lord, and He will exalt you."

➤ **Point 1 "The Cause of the Conflict" (James 4:1-3)**

"What is the source of quarrels and conflicts among you? Is not the source your pleasures that wage war in your members? ²You lust and do not have; so you commit murder. You are envious and cannot obtain; so you fight and quarrel. You do not have because you do not ask. ³You ask and do not receive, because you ask with wrong motives, so that you may spend *it* on your pleasures."

- A cause is:
 - A reason for an action or condition; A motive.
 - The push or the drive

- James reveals to us the reasons for conflict (What is the source for quarrels and conflict?)
- The desires that battle within you!
- The word desires = lusts – Indicates a craving for pleasure or satisfaction
- NOTE: These desires can be driven from pleasure, prestige, possessions, or prominence.
- Verse 2 tells us the type of desires and lust;
 - You want something that you can't have (So people kill & covet)
 - You can not have what you want (So people quarrel & fight)
- James say the desires are so strong, people kill and covet to obtain what they want.
- The killing is sometimes physical murder and verbal assassination.
- **Proverbs 13:10a** gives us the many reasons for conflicts **"By pride comes nothing but strife"** – NKJV (Arrogant know-it-alls stir up discord MSG Bible)
- Examples of Conflict:
 - In Marriage
 - At Work
 - At School
 - At Church
 - Between God and Us
- Conflicts are caused by pride and ego
- Someone once said that EGO means Edging God Out – Edging God out of our lives and our desires.
- The root cause of conflict is always selfish desire caused by pride and leaving God out of our lives and situations.
- Verse 2c & Verse 3 tells us that selfish desires creates a disaster area in our prayer lives. (We don't have because we do not ask God)
- NOTE: Then we don't get after we ask because of the motive in which we ask.
- **1John 5:14b** (The attitude God requires for hearing our prayers) **"This is the confidence which we have before Him, that, if we ask anything**

according to His will, He hears us.”

➤ **Point 2 “The Consequences of the Conflict” (James 4:4-5)**

⁴You adulteresses, do you not know that friendship with the world is hostility toward God? Therefore whoever wishes to be a friend of the world makes himself an enemy of God. ⁵Or do you think that the Scripture speaks to no purpose: “He jealously desires the Spirit which He has made to dwell in us”?

- A consequence is:
 - something produced by a set of conditions
 - a result of something we have done or participated in.
 - Selfish desires not only cause conflict with others people but also conflicts with God.
 - James says “You adulteress people” Adultery is sometimes used in the Bible as a metaphor to describe spiritual adultery or unfaithfulness to God.
 - We even have to be careful about being politically correct; Sins Is Still Sin! The world wants us to be flexible, tolerant, and even accommodating of sin. (Look at how God sees this) **“Therefore whoever wishes to be a friend of the world makes himself an enemy of God.”**
 - We must choose daily God’s perspective in order to “Tame Our Conflicts”
 - **Matthew 12:30a** “He who is not with Me is against Me; and he who does not gather with Me scatters”
 - God requires a total allegiance! (James 4:5 **“Or do you think that the Scripture speaks to no purpose: “He jealously desires the Spirit which He has made to dwell in us?” - NASB)** NLT – “Do you think the Scriptures have no meaning? They say that God is passionate that the spirit he has placed within us should be faithful to him.” **We are going to have to deal with the consequences of conflict when we don’t keep Christ in His rightful place in our lives. Colossians 1:13-18 says “For He rescued us from the domain of darkness, and transferred us to the kingdom of His beloved Son, ¹⁴in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins. ¹⁵He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation. ¹⁶For by Him all things were created, both in the heavens and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities— all things have been created through Him and for Him. ¹⁷He is before all things, and in Him all things hold together. ¹⁸He is also head of the body, the church; and He is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, so that He Himself will come to have first place in everything.”**
 - We must be sensitive to the Holy Spirit who points out areas of our lives where Jesus doesn’t have first place in our lives.
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➤ **Point 3 “The Cure for Conflict” (James 4:6-10)**

⁶ But He gives a greater grace. Therefore *it* says, “GOD IS OPPOSED TO THE PROUD, BUT GIVES GRACE TO THE HUMBLE.” ⁷ Submit therefore to God. Resist the devil and he will flee from you. ⁸ Draw near to God and He will draw near to you. Cleanse your hands, you sinners; and purify your hearts, you double-minded. ⁹ Be miserable and mourn and weep; let your laughter be turned into mourning and your joy to gloom. ¹⁰ Humble yourselves in the presence of the Lord, and He will exalt you.”

- A cure is:
 - A complete or permanent remedy.
 - A fixed solution
- God gives us an empowering grace to totally live for God.
- This is how we receive the cure for conflict. We are faced with so many possible conflicts in this life, but God’s Greater Grace we are able to be victorious in this life.
- A Cure for Conflict - **“Therefore *it* says, “GOD IS OPPOSED TO THE PROUD, BUT GIVES GRACE TO THE HUMBLE.”** – We must be and remain humble!
- A Cure for Conflict - **Submit therefore to God (Let God work His will in You)**
- A Cure for Conflict - **Resist the devil (Yell No to the Devil)**
- A Cure for Conflict – **Draw near to God (Say Yes to God)**
- A Cure for Conflict – **Cleanse your hands (Quit dabbling in sin)**
- A Cure for Conflict – **Purify your hearts (Purify your inner life)**
- **A Cure for Conflict – Be miserable and mourn and weep**
(Let there be tears for the wrong things you have done. Let there be sorrow and sincere grief)
- A Cure for Conflict - **Humble yourselves (Lay yourself bare, facedown to the ground)**

- **The Cure for the Conflicts will help us to remove the selfish desires, the arrogant ways, the controlling spirits, and the need to be right all the time.**
- **NOTE: This is how we can Tame Conflicts and Be a Better Me!**
