



Part Two: The War Within

Why do we get upset and fight with people we love the most? Is it because of our circumstances or the way they treat us? Those things might contribute, but perhaps our real problem isn't with other people. Maybe our struggle comes from within.

Scripture: James 4:1-5 ESV

Bottom Line: The fights between us are a result of the fight within us.

Discussion Questions

1. Have you ever gotten into a fight/argument with someone and found that as you got upset you forgot why you were fighting in the first place? What happened? Did you learn anything from that experience?
2. Read James 4:1-5. What observations in this passage stand out to you? What do you think James' main point in these 5 verses is? What does James say is the reason why people are fighting? Can you give an example of a time in your life where you've experienced this in your own life?
3. James calls the people 'adulteresses' which is a way of saying they are committing idolatry. What do you think are the most significant 'idols' in our culture? Can you think of other passages of Scripture that talk about idolatry? What do we learn from these passages and how do they help you understand what idolatry is and how damaging it can be?
4. What are some of the things that you find yourself relying on for your security, success, and happiness rather than God? How does relying on idols for these types of things affect the relationships we have with one another?

Moving Forward

When we are spiritually deficient we often have unrealistic expectations for people around us. This can lead us to fight and quarrel. What are some practical ways that you can shift your trust from the idols of our culture back to God? How do you think this would change the kind of relationships you have with people around you?