

# THE BOOK OF JAMES

HOW TO OVERCOME CONFLICT

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First  
BAPTIST CHURCH OF LEO

JULY 27th, 2025

## CONFLICT AND RELATIONAL PROBLEMS IN JAMES 1-3

- Anger (1:19-20)
- Neglecting the Vulnerable (1:27)
- Showing Favoritism (2:1-12)
- Forgetting the Poor (2:15-17)
- Damaging Words (3:1-12)
- Envy, Conflict, Disorder (3:13-16)

## ONE ATTITUDE THAT CONTRIBUTES TO ALL OF THESE CONFLICTS (AND MORE):

E \_\_\_\_\_  
G \_\_\_\_\_  
O \_\_\_\_\_

## FIVE SYMPTOMS OF AN "I" DISEASE:

1. I am quick to \_\_\_\_\_.

“ <sup>1</sup> What causes fights and quarrels among you? Don't they come from your desires that battle within you.” ~ JAMES 4:1 (NIV)

2. I am continually \_\_\_\_\_.

“ <sup>2</sup> You desire but do not have, so you kill. You covet but you cannot get what you want, so you quarrel and fight...” ~ JAMES 4:2a (NIV)

Selfish ambition creates conflict in relationships with people and \_\_\_\_\_.

“ ... You do not have because you do not ask God. <sup>3</sup> When you ask, you do not receive, because you ask with wrong motives, that you may spend what you get on your pleasures.”

~ JAMES 4:2b-3 (NIV)

3. I am taken in by \_\_\_\_\_.

“ <sup>4</sup> 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.”

~ JAMES 4:4 (NIV)

“ <sup>27</sup> Religion that God our Father accepts as pure and faultless is this: to look after orphans and widows in their distress and to keep oneself from being polluted by the world.”

~ JAMES 1:27 (NIV)

4. I take joy in \_\_\_\_\_.

“ <sup>11</sup> Brothers and sisters, do not slander one another. Anyone who speaks against a brother or sister or judges them speaks against the law and judges it. When you judge the law, you are not keeping it, but sitting in judgment on it. <sup>12</sup> There is only one Lawgiver and Judge, the one who is able to save and destroy. But you—who are you to judge your neighbor?”

~ JAMES 4:11-12 (NIV)

5. I plan my life \_\_\_\_\_.

“ <sup>13</sup> Now listen, you who say, ‘Today or tomorrow we will go to this or that city, spend a year there, carry on business and make money.’ <sup>14</sup> Why, you do not even know what will happen tomorrow. What is your life? You are a mist that appears for a little while and then vanishes. <sup>15</sup> Instead, you ought to say, ‘If it is the Lord’s will, we will live and do this or that.’ <sup>16</sup> As it is, you boast in your arrogant schemes. All such boasting is evil.”

~ JAMES 4:13-16 (NIV)

## So WHAT?

### HOW DO I OVERCOME MY “I” DISEASE?

1. \_\_\_\_\_ the evil source of my selfish ambition.

“ <sup>7</sup> Resist the devil, and he will flee from you.” ~ JAMES 4:7b (NIV)

2. \_\_\_\_\_ as the manager of the universe.

“ <sup>6</sup> But he gives us more grace. That is why Scripture says: ‘God opposes the proud but shows favor to the humble.’ <sup>7</sup> Submit yourselves, then, to God.”

~ JAMES 4:6-7a (NIV)

2. Humbly \_\_\_\_\_ myself with God.

“ <sup>8</sup> Come near to God and he will come near to you.”

~ JAMES 4:8a (NIV)

“ <sup>10</sup> Humble yourselves before the Lord, and he will lift you up.”

~ JAMES 4:10 (NIV)

### DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

Outline Adapted From: “The Attitude that Makes Life Sacred” ~ Pastor Rene Schlaepfer

- 1- How would you answer a 5th grader who asks you where do the conflicts of our world come from?
- 2- Review some of the relational problems James has covered in chapters 1-3. Why do you suppose these topics are so important to James and his readers? Why are they important to the church today?
- 3- Review the five symptoms of “I” disease that are covered in this message. Give yourself an “I” exam by arranging the five symptoms in the order that you struggle with the most in your life.
- 4- What do you think it means to resist the devil so that he will flee from you? How does that fit the overall context of James 4?
- 5- What do you think it means to resign as the manager of the universe? What is one area of control that you could give over to God this week?
- 6- How could you draw near to God this week?

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