

wrote, “Where do wars and fights come from among you? Do they not come from your desires for pleasure that war in your members?” (James 4:1). In our own selfish pursuits, we sometimes battle without considering the price exacted on our witness to the world or our relationships with one another. Perhaps that is why James preceded these words with the challenge, “Now the fruit of righteousness is sown in peace by those who make peace” (3:18).

If we are to represent the Prince of Peace in our world, believers need to stop fighting with one another and practice peace.

*The wars and fights within the church
Disrupt our unity and peace;
How can we show the peace of Christ
Unless our conflicts cease? —Sper*

When Christians are at peace with one another, the world can more clearly see the Prince of Peace.



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Central Mountains Baptist Church

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The Cost Of Fighting

During a documentary on World War I, the narrator said that if Britain’s casualties in “the war to end all wars” were marched four abreast past London’s war monument, the procession would take 7 days to complete. This staggering word picture set my mind spinning at the awful cost of war. While those costs include monetary expense, destruction of property, and economic interruption, none of these compare to the human cost. Both soldiers and civilians pay the ultimate price, multiplied exponentially by the grief of the survivors. War is costly.

When believers go to war with one another, the cost is also high. James





Drawing Close

Understanding Conflict

James 4:1-3 makes 3 comments about those who are in conflict. If you are in conflict then:

1. You are thinking _____

: but those _____ are not the

cause of conflict, verse 1

(1 Corinthians 12:4-7) "There are diversities of gifts, but the same Spirit. {5} There are differences of ministries, but the same Lord. {6} And there are diversities of activities, but it is the same God who works all in all. {7} But the manifestation of the Spirit is given to each one for the profit of all."



(Acts 15:7) "And when there had been much dispute, Peter rose up and said ..."

(Acts 15:19) ""Therefore I judge that we should not trouble those from among the Gentiles who are turning to God,"

(Acts 15:25) "it seemed good to us, being assembled with one accord...,"



2. You are thinking _____:

_____ is the spark of conflict, verse 1, 4

(James 4:1) "From whence come wars and fightings among you? come they not hence, even of your lusts that war in your members?" [KJV]

(James 4:1) Do you know where your fights and arguments come from? They come from the selfish desires that war within you.[paraphrase]

(Philippians 2:4) "Let each of you look out not only for his own interests, but also for the interests of others."

(Isaiah 53:6) "All we like sheep have gone astray; We have turned, every one, to his own way; And the LORD has laid on Him the iniquity of us all."

(Proverbs 3:5) "Trust in the LORD with all your heart, And lean not on your own understanding;"

(Proverbs 3:7) "Do not be wise in your own eyes; ..."



Differences		Responses		Problem
2	X	2	=	4
2	X	4	=	8
4	X	0	=	0

(Proverbs 12:15) "The way of a fool is right in his own eyes, ..."

(Romans 12:16) "... Do not be wise in your own opinion."

(1 Corinthians 13:4-5) "Love ...; {5} .. does not seek its own, ...;"

3. You are thinking _____:

_____ are the explosive fuel of conflict, verses 2-8

(Ephesians 5:5) "For this you know, that no fornicator, unclean person, nor covetous man, who is an idolater, has any inheritance in the kingdom of Christ and God."

(1 John 5:21) "Little children, keep yourselves from idols. Amen."

(1 Corinthians 10:14) "Therefore, my beloved, flee from idolatry."

(Revelation 21:8) ""But the cowardly, unbelieving, abominable, ..., idolaters, and all liars shall have their part in the lake which burns with fire and brimstone, which is the second death.""

(1 Thessalonians 1:9) ".. how you turned to God from idols to serve the living and true God,"

