

To Fight or Not to Fight

⇒ **Text:** James 4:1-2

⇒ **Introduction:**

- It's sad to even say this, but fighting is a universal problem.
 - Even among the people of God, fighting is more commonplace than most would imagine.
 - People fight, but nobody feels good about it afterward.
- Husbands fight with wives, and wives fight with husbands.
 - Parents fight with children and children with each other.
 - Brothers fight with sisters and sisters with brothers, brothers with brothers and sisters with sisters.
 - Families fight within their family framework.
- Even the best of friends fight with one another from time to time.
- ⇒ Why is it that people fight and fuss as they do?
 - There are three conditions from which this fighting arises:
- ⇒ **1. People are full of themselves. - Proverbs 13:10**
 - Pride is the total promotion of self.
 - Anytime you promote YOU, there is going to be trouble!
 - Korah;- He and others rose up against Moses - **Numbers 16:1-3**
 - Why? – Pride!
 - **Results – Number 16:31-33**
 - Miriam & Aaron speak against their own brother Moses
 - Why? – Pride!
 - **See Number 12:1-10**
 - Rehoboam, Solomon's son; **1 Kings 12** - Ignored wise counsel and followed his peers and ends up splitting the kingdom of Israel.
 - Why? – Pride!
 - Even the apostles were not immune from Pride
 - **See Luke 22:24**
 - Proverbs makes it clear that it is only by pride that contention comes.
 - Some people just walk about with a chip on their shoulders.
 - Some people are only happy if they are in a good fight.
 - I'm not talking about the man or woman who contends for the faith, who stands for right, and it ends up costing him something.
 - I'm talking about the child of God who is a trouble maker, the one who stirs up strife!
 - Get rid of your pride, and get right with God!
 - This is the first step in growing past fighting with others!
- ⇒ **2. People are not at peace with themselves. - James 4:1**
 - This war from within is described in **Romans 7:15-25**.
 - We all-too often do the very things we hate.
 - We are cruel and unjust.
 - We lose our tempers.
 - We curse and swear, say things we ought not say we blow it!
 - The source of internal strife is sin, Romans 7.

- How should you deal with it?
- If indeed internal strife is caused by sin, and it is, then it should be confessed as sin and forsaken by the believer!
- Confess = agree with God it is sin
- The second step to growing past strife is to agree with God about it, that it is a sin to be forsaken!
 - **See Proverbs 28:13**
- ⇒ **3. People do not get what they want for themselves. - James 4:2**
 - Lust = strong desires.
 - When these desires are not met, we struggle to have them met.
 - "A friend in need...is a pest!"
 - Not really, but many a friend, who struggles to get his needs met, becomes a pest by his continual nagging about it!
 - Put away your expectation lists!
 - Burn your list of expectations about others, and get contented with Jesus!
 - How?
 - OBEY GOD'S COMMAND TO, "Be content with such things as ye have..." (**Hebrews 13:5**)
 - Quit hinting about what you want, and look for someone else to help meet their needs.
 - This brings us back to pride.
 - The third step to growing past strife is to stop promoting YOU
 - and what YOU want
 - and what YOU think others should be doing for YOU and YOUR cause!
- ⇒ **Conclusion:**
 - "From whence come wars and fightings among you?"
 - The Bible makes it clear:
 - Because of being full of yourself.
 - Because of not being at peace with yourself.
 - Because of not getting what YOU want for yourself.