

How To End Wars – James 4:1-12
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Introduction

1. War is a fact of life, in spite of peace treaties, world peace organizations and the threat of atomic bombs. There are wars in every level of life.
2. James in chapter four discusses how to end wars that plague us and the kingdom of God...

I. At War With Each Other (4:1a, 11-12)

- a. Class Wars – James 2:1-9
- b. Employment Wars – James 5:1-6
- c. Church Fights – James 1:19-20; 3:13-18
- d. Personal Wars – James 4:11-12
 - i. Why are we at war with one another? Because...

II. At War With Ourselves (4:1b-3)

- a. Sin Is Selfishness – Isaiah 53:6
 - i. Selfish desires are dangerous for they lead to wrong actions (4:2) and even to wrong praying (4:3)
 - ii. Prayers that are meant to gratify selfish desires is contrary to God's will
 - iii. We have a choice in life to make our main object our own desires or the will of God and if we choose self then we are...

III. At War With God (4:4-10)

- a. The World (v4)
 - i. The root cause for every war is rebellion against God (1 John 3:4)
 - ii. Beware of the friendship of the world (James 4:4) for it will lead to loving the world (1 John 2:15-17) and it makes us conform to the world (Romans 12:2) and the sad result is being condemned with the world (1 Corinthians 11:32).
 - iii. Friendship with the world is compared to adultery (Romans 7:4; Hosea 1-2; Jeremiah 3:1-5; Ezekiel 23; Exodus 34:14-16; Mark 8:38; 2 Corinthians 11:1-2; Revelation 19:7-8)
- b. The Flesh (v1,5)
 - i. The desires of the flesh lead us away from God (1 Peter 2:11)
 - ii. To submit to the flesh means we are going against the Holy Spirit (Galatians 4:5; 5:16-26)
 - iii. Living to please the flesh means to declare war against God (Romans 8:7)
- c. The Devil (v6-7)
 - i. Pride is the devil's greatest weapon against us (1 Timothy 3:6) God wants us to depend on Him and His grace and devil wants us to depend on ourselves

IV. How To Enjoy Peace

- a. Submit To God (v7)
- b. Draw Near To God (v8)
- c. Humble Yourselves Before God (v9-10)