

PRACTICAL FAITH

A Letter from James



Passions, Partnership, and Pride: Destroyers of Peace
James 4:1-6

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INTRODUCTION

- Previous section - 2 kinds of *Wisdom*
- Ends with blessing upon *Peacemakers*
- James moves to three things that significantly undermine wisdom and peaceful relationships in the church

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MISDIRECTED PASSIONS

¹ What causes *quarrels* (or wars) and what causes *fights* among you?

Is it not this, that *your passions* are at war within you?

² You *desire* and do not have, so you murder. You *covet* and cannot obtain, so you fight and quarrel. You *do not have [wisdom]*, because you do not ask.

³ You *ask* [in prayer] and do not receive, because you ask *wrongly*, to spend it on *your passions*.

3

INAPPROPRIATE PARTNERSHIP

⁴ You *adulterous* people!

Do you not know that *friendship with the world is enmity* with God?

Therefore whoever wishes to be a friend of the world makes himself an enemy of God.

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GOD-OPPOSED PRIDE

⁵ Or do you suppose it is to no purpose that the Scripture says, "He yearns *jealously* over the spirit that he has made to dwell in us"?

⁶ But he gives more grace. Therefore it says, "God opposes the *proud*, but gives *grace* to the *humble*." (Prov3:34)

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RESPONSE

- These verses point out the inevitable connection between our relationship with God and others: the antidote to these issues?
 - **Passions** directed by the glory of God and the good of others
 - **Partnership** with God and His people
 - **Pride** replaced by humility for God's grace toward us
- The perniciousness nature of our remaining sin
 - The most destructive passions are often "spiritual"
 - The need for honest prayer and vulnerable community
- This letter is a vivid reminder of the messiness and incompleteness of churches and Christians

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