

What Relationships Reveal - James 4

October 12, 2017

James 4:1-10 ESV

1 What causes quarrels and what causes fights among you? Is it not this, that your passions are at war within you?

Relationships are often the quickest and easiest (and sometimes most surprising) way to tell whether you're walking in the flesh or in the Spirit.

Galatians 5:19-24 ESV

19 Now **the works of the flesh** are evident: sexual immorality, impurity, sensuality,
20 idolatry, sorcery, enmity, strife, jealousy, fits of anger, rivalries, dissensions, divisions,
21 envy, drunkenness, orgies, and things like these. I warn you, as I warned you before, that those who do such things will not inherit the kingdom of God.

22 But **the fruit of the Spirit** is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness,
23 gentleness, self-control; against such things there is no law.

24 And those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires.

James 4:1-10 ESV

2 You desire and do not have, so you murder. You covet and cannot obtain, so you fight and quarrel.

We've been called to the freedom of no man lording over us, dictating and dominating our life, faith and conscience. Yet we take that freedom and try to lord over others through manipulation and coercion to obtain our fleshly desires.

Galatians 5:13-15 ESV

13 **For you were called to freedom, brothers. Only do not use your freedom as an opportunity for the flesh, but through love serve one another.**

14 **For the whole law is fulfilled in one word: "You shall love your neighbor as yourself."**

15 **But if you bite and devour one another, watch out that you are not consumed by one another.**

James 4:1-10 ESV

2 You do not have, because you do not ask.

We do not ask because we don't believe that our Father knows, cares, hears every prayer and answers. Instead of being content waiting on God for our needs and provisions, we strive to obtain in our fleshly and carnal methods.

Matthew 7:7-11 ESV

7 **"Ask, and it will be given to you; seek, and you will find; knock, and it will be opened to you.**

8 For everyone who asks receives, and the one who seeks finds, and to the one who knocks it will be opened.

9 Or which one of you, if his son asks him for bread, will give him a stone?

10 Or if he asks for a fish, will give him a serpent?

11 If you then, who are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your Father who is in heaven give good things to those who ask him!

James 4:1-10 ESV

3 You ask and do not receive, because you ask wrongly, to spend it on your passions.

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.**

To use fleshly methods trying to satisfy our desires and lusts is to make ourselves enemies of God.

1 Corinthians 3:3 ESV

3 for **you are still of the flesh.** For while there is jealousy and strife among you, are you not of the flesh and behaving only in a human way?

James 4:1-10 ESV

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?"

God jealously longs for our heart to be wholly His.

Exodus 20:1-6 ESV

1 And God spoke all these words, saying,

2 "I am the LORD your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery."

3 "You shall have no other gods before me."

4 "You shall not make for yourself a carved image, or any likeness of anything that is in heaven above, or that is in the earth beneath, or that is in the water under the earth."

5 **You shall not bow down to them or serve them, for I the LORD your God am a jealous God, visiting the iniquity of the fathers on the children to the third and the fourth generation of those who hate me,**

6 **but showing steadfast love to thousands of those who love me and keep my commandments.**"

James 4:1-10 ESV

6 But he gives more grace. Therefore it says, "God opposes the proud, but gives grace to the humble."

God's grace is infinitely greater than the power and enticement of sin. He will always cause us to triumph over our flesh and sin.

Galatians 5:16 ESV

16 But I say, walk by the Spirit, and you will not gratify the desires of the flesh.

Romans 8:10-11 ESV

10 But if Christ is in you, although the body is dead because of sin, the Spirit is life because of righteousness.

11 If the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, he who raised Christ Jesus from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies through his Spirit who dwells in you.

James 4:1-10 ESV

7 Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you.

God is continually working in us to sanctify, purify and mature us. Surrender to God's chastening and training.

Hebrews 12:10-11 ESV

10 For they disciplined us for a short time as it seemed best to them, but he disciplines us for our good, that we may share his holiness.

11 For the moment all discipline seems painful rather than pleasant, but later it yields the peaceful fruit of righteousness to those who have been trained by it.

Philippians 1:6 ESV

6 And I am sure of this, that he who began a good work in you will bring it to completion at the day of Jesus Christ.

Philippians 2:13 ESV

13 for it is God who works in you, both to will and to work for his good pleasure.

James 4:1-10 ESV

8 Draw near to God, and he will draw near to you. Cleanse your hands, you sinners, and purify your hearts, you double-minded.

9 Be wretched and mourn and weep. Let your laughter be turned to mourning and your joy to gloom.

10 Humble yourselves before the Lord, and he will exalt you.

James 4:11 ESV

11 Do not speak evil against one another, brothers. The one who speaks against a brother or judges his brother, speaks evil against the law and judges the law. But if you judge the law, you are not a doer of the law but a judge.

If speak against a brother with a critical spirit, we are judging the law of liberty, the Word of God in his heart and life, which is actively working in him to save his soul and purify his life. You are saying the Word of God is impotent to save and change him.

James 1:21-22 ESV

21 Therefore put away all filthiness and rampant wickedness and receive with meekness the implanted word, which is able to save your souls.

22 But be doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving yourselves.

James 1:25 ESV

25 But the one who looks into the perfect law, the law of liberty, and perseveres, being no hearer who forgets but a doer who acts, he will be blessed in his doing.

James 4:12 ESV

12 There is only one lawgiver and judge, he who is able to save and to destroy. But who are you to judge your neighbor?

Matthew 5:21-22 ESV

21 "You have heard that it was said to those of old, 'You shall not murder; and whoever murders will be liable to judgment.'

22 But I say to you that everyone who is angry with his brother will be liable to judgment; whoever insults his brother will be liable to the council; and whoever says, 'You fool!' will be liable to the hell of fire.

Matthew 7:1-5 ESV

1 "Judge not, that you be not judged.

2 For with the judgment you pronounce you will be judged, and with the measure you use it will be measured to you.

3 Why do you see the speck that is in your brother's eye, but do not notice the log that is in your own eye?

4 Or how can you say to your brother, 'Let me take the speck out of your eye,' when there is the log in your own eye?

5 You hypocrite, first take the log out of your own eye, and then you will see clearly to take the speck out of your brother's eye.