

Avoiding Arguments

Working Faith #8-10

February 19, 2012

In everything you do, stay away from complaining and arguing,
Philippians 2:14 (NLT)

What causes fights and quarrels among you? Don't they come from your desires that battle within you?
James 4:1 (NIV)

Three desires that can cause arguments:

1. My desire to have.

You want something but don't get it. You kill and covet, but you cannot have what you want. You quarrel and fight. **James 4:2 (NIV)**

2. My desire to feel good.

...you want only what will give you pleasure. **James 4:3 (NLT)**

... God richly gives us everything to enjoy. **1 Timothy 6:17 (NCV)**

3. My desire to be first.

He gives us more and more strength to stand against such evil desires. As the Scriptures say, "God sets himself against the proud, but he shows favor to the humble."
James 4:6 (NLT)

Pride leads to arguments; those who take advice are wise.
Proverbs 13:10 (NLT)

You want something but don't get it. You kill and covet, but you cannot have what you want. You quarrel and fight. You do not have, because you do not ask God.
James 4:2 (NIV)

- Lack of prayer is evidence of pride.

- The remedy for arguments is humility.

Humble yourselves before the Lord, and he will lift you up.
James 4:10 (NIV)

...God opposes the proud but gives grace to the humble.
James 4:6 (NIV)

4 steps to reducing conflict:

Step #1- Give in to God. (v7a)

Submit yourselves, then, to God... **James 4:7a (NIV)**

You adulterers! Don't you realize that friendship with this world makes you an enemy of God? I say it again, that if your aim is to enjoy this world, you can't be a friend of God. **James 4:4 (NLT)**

Let the peace that Christ gives control your thinking...
Colossians 3:15 (NCV)

Step #2- Get wise to Satan. (v.7b)

... Resist the devil, and he will flee from you. **James 4:7b (NIV)**

I did this so that Satan would not win anything from us, because we know very well what Satan's plans are. **2 Corinthians 2:11 (NCV)**

Step #3- Grow closer to God. (v.8a)

Come near to God and he will come near to you... **James 4:8 (NIV)**

He will keep him in perfect peace all those who trust him, whose thoughts turn often to the Lord. **Isaiah 26:3 (LB)**

Step #4- Get things right. (v.8b)

- Unresolved conflict leads to more conflict.

...Wash your hands, you sinners, and purify your hearts, you double-minded.
James 4:8 (NIV)

Grieve, mourn and wail. Change your laughter to mourning and your joy to gloom.
James 4:9 (NIV)

Humble yourselves before the Lord, and he will lift you up.
James 4:10 (NIV)