

JAMES (Chapter 4:1-2)

Lesson 18: The Source of Envy, Strife, Wars, and Fightings

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The Bible clearly informs us that there is none righteous (Rom 3:10, Psa 14:3, 53:1-3) and that everyone is a sinner (Rom 3:23, Eccl 7:20, Gal 3:22, 1 Jn 1:8). Today we will discover the root of that sin and investigate some of the heart attitudes that contribute to our tendency to sin.

In chapter 3, the focus was on individual relationships. The wisdom of this world leads to envy and strife between individuals. In chapter 4, the scope is broadened. The wisdom of man also leads to greater conflicts such as war.

James 4:1 “From whence *come* wars and fightings among you? *come they not hence, even of your lusts that war in your members?*” The same heart-condition that causes an individual to commit petty crimes against another individual is also the heart-condition that leads to greater crimes and even wars.

*Memorize this verse; it will be useful. There are many people who won't trust God because they don't understand how a “*God of love*” could allow wars and fightings to continue.

As long as there are men on this earth abiding in a body of sinful flesh, there will be wars. God could end the wars, but only if he kills all those who are warring against each other. That is what He'll do at the Battle of Armageddon (Rev 19:11-21).

Wars never bring peace. The only peace a person can know in this life is the peace that comes through trusting Jesus Christ as your personal Savior (John 14:27, 16:33, Gal 5:22, Acts 10:36, Rom 5:1).

Until mankind is ready to give glory to God in the highest, there will never be peace on earth (Luke 2:14).

Matthew 24:6-8

Wars are not the sign of the end. There have always been wars on this earth. Men who write books claiming that a particular war is the sign that Jesus is coming soon are men who are only interested in making a lot of money. Christians should not be looking at wars as a sign of the rapture.

When we lack something that we desire, our lust for what the other man or what the other country has will tempt us to take what we want by force.

James 4:2 “² Ye lust, and have not: ye kill, and desire to have...” The desire to have more than what God gave you leads to sin (Isa. 14:13-14, Gen 2:16-17, 3:6).

Romans 7:23-24 All have sinned. Even the best of men struggle within themselves to avoid sin. It's inherent in our nature. Until we get out of our body of flesh, we'll have an inner conflict with sin.

Ephesians 6:12 When we give ourselves over to the lusts of the flesh, Satan and his minions have an opportunity to wreck our lives, our families, or even our communities or nations.

James 4:2 People who don't believe in God or the Bible have nothing to restrain them from doing terrible things.

The fear of God inhibits lust. Drugs and alcohol remove our inhibitions (our fear of God), which leads to embarrassing, shameful, or deadly circumstances. Crime and immorality will continue to escalate as long as the people do not fear God.
