

# SERMON OUTLINE James 4:1-10

The Cause of and Cure for Conflict in the Church

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## **THE PROBLEM, ITS CAUSE, AND ITS SOLUTION ACCORDING TO JAMES'S READERS**

*The Problem According to James's Readers*

*The Cause According to James's Readers*

*The Solution According to James's Readers*

## **THE REAL PROBLEM AND ITS CAUSE ACCORDING TO JAMES**

*The Real Problem According to James*

*The Real Cause According to James*

# SERMON DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

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## MAIN POINT

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The two main points of this passage are that conflict within the Church is a problem in that it is contrary to the nature and calling of Christians and that the cause of this problem is sinful love of the world. The main charge of this sermon is to examine our hearts to see if there are any hints of conflict-causing world-love in there.

## DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

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1. What were your thoughts on the text/sermon? What most stood out? How was it helpful? Confusing?
2. Not to dredge up past or present pain, but have you ever experienced conflict within the Church? Was it easy for you to see the source of the conflict? Does this passage help you make any better sense of the problem?
3. Have you ever been helped by the bad examples in Scripture or in your life? How? Can you think of any ways that the bad example of James's readers in vs. 1-5 might help you function in a healthier way?
4. Can you think of any examples of being really upset because someone didn't give you what you wanted? What did you do?
5. Can you think of an example of conflict where you believed you were in the right, only to find out later that you weren't?
6. Before hearing this text, what would you have said was the main cause of Church conflict?
7. Where do you desire something you shouldn't, in a way you shouldn't, or in a place you shouldn't? How does this passage help you know what to do when you find such things?
8. In what way do you most clearly see the greatness of God in this passage?

## AREAS OF APPLICATION

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9. Consider any past or current conflict in your life. Consider what role your own warring passions might have caused in the conflict. Confess that to God and the person.
10. Find a way to use what you learned in this passage to help someone work through conflict in a more godly way.
11. Tell someone about the reconciling, conflict-ending power of God through Jesus Christ.
12. What is one specific thing you mean to do differently in the power of the Spirit as a result of the things you saw or heard in this text or sermon?

## PRAYER POINTS

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13. Adoration. Praise God for being filled with peace. Praise God for being filled with wisdom. Praise God for being filled with power. Praise God for being filled with mercy and grace. Praise God for being a friend to sinners.
14. Confession. Confess any ways in which you have allowed the sinful desires of your heart to cause conflict—confess it to God and the person you had conflict with.
15. Thanksgiving. Thank God for revealing wrong ways to view conflict as well as right ways. Thank God for sending Jesus to reconcile the world to Himself. Thank God for overcoming the word, the flesh and the devil.
16. Supplication. Ask God to end any conflict within the Church that you're aware of. Ask God to help those in conflict to repent of the sinful passions and world-love of their own heart that are driving the conflict. Ask God to save someone specific in your life. Ask God to protect our church from conflict.