July 1, 2007

James 4:1-3

God values ***peace***.
Romans 12:18; Psalm 133:1

"fights and quarrels" – ***wars*** and ***battles***

- "wars" refers to a ***constant*** state of war
- "battles" refers to ***separate*** battles in the war
- fights and quarrels that ***dishonor*** God and ***harm*** one another

James says you have problems with others because of a problem ***within you***.

"desires" – *hedonon* – our desires for ***pleasure*** literally wages war within us

Fights and quarrels are all about ***frustrated desires***.

Not all desire is ***wrong***. The problem and the reason you have quarrels is because you don't deal with those desires ***correctly***.

You're looking to ***man*** to satisfy your desires instead of ***God***.

The proper way to deal with those desires is to go to God in ***prayer***.
1 John 5:14-15

If you have a problem with fights and quarrels, you have a problem with your ***prayer*** life.

It's because our ***personal*** desires are our reference point rather than ***God's*** desires that our prayers are wrong and why we end up having fights and quarrels.

This week, before you ***point*** the finger in conflict at others, find the ***purpose*** behind it in your heart.

NOTES