

James 4:1-3

Wars, Lusts & Disappointments

Mercenary combatants ...

I. On the Field

- A. Battles in the Church
- B. Nature of the Conflict

II. In the Heart

- A. Agitation
- B. Conflagration

III. At the Throne

- A. Errant Asking
- B. Asking Aright

... or Kingdom allies.

Children, Listen ...

1. How do you think it makes parents feel when their children fight with each other?
2. How do you think God feels when people in the church do not get along?
3. If we are having a hard time getting along with someone, what can we do?
4. If we realize that we are wrong or sinning against someone, what should we do?
5. How do you think God feels when His people truly serve and love one another?

Grace in the Ranks

Our text today reminds that deferential grace in the ranks of the church is a vital component of a peaceful, edifying and effective ministry. We are a collection of redeemed sinners who still have a long way to go in our sanctification. James hits hard when he describes the kinds of things that contribute to conflict in our lives, families, churches, etc. and he challenges us to examine our own hearts as a possible sources of strife and contention should there be any. There may be legitimate issues to dispute over but, more often than not, tension between us very often rises from some form of selfish ambition lurking in our hearts – when it rises to the surface it can mean war! Brothers and sisters that cannot be: we are on the same side if we are in Christ and we are to battle together against sin and unrighteousness not against one another. May God continue to grant us a spirit of humility, grace and peace, helping us to set aside all self-centeredness so that we may serve one another well and glorifying our God together as one.