

## **James: A Letter from Jesus' Brother** **The Cause of Quarrels — James 4:1-10**

### **What's the cause of quarrels and fights? (vv.1-2)**

Frustration over unfulfilled desires.

### **What causes frustration over unfulfilled desires? (vv.2-3)**

A lack of God-centered prayer.

Either I'm not praying at all, or I'm not seeking God's nearness in my prayer.

### **What causes a lack of God-centered prayer? (vv.4-6)**

I'm a spiritual adulterer.

My heart is seeking its satisfaction in something other than God.

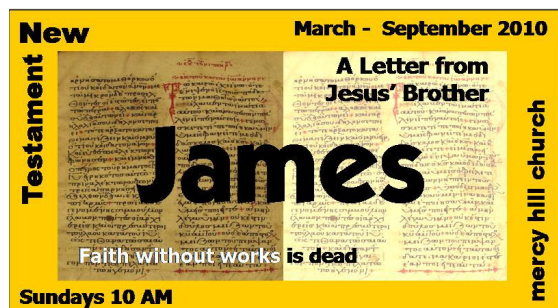
James says this is extremely serious — if nothing changes it makes me an enemy of God.

### **What can we do? (vv.7-10)**

"Submit to God": agree with God's diagnosis of your heart. As you do this sincerely, trusting Jesus' death to pay for your sin, you will be completely forgiven.

"Resist the devil, and he will flee from you." Turn your heart to Jesus, trust Him, and Satan will lose his power over you.

"Draw near to God, and He will draw near to you." Set your heart on God Himself. Ask Him to satisfy you with Himself.



## **HOME GROUP DISCUSSION OF SUNDAY'S TEACHING**

What was the Holy Spirit saying to you Sunday through this passage?

What questions, ideas, objections, encouragements did you come away with?

Are you involved in a fight or quarrel right now? What unfulfilled desire is frustrating you?

Does it make sense that the cause of a fight or quarrel is frustration over an unfulfilled desire? Why or why not?

Do you agree that frustration over an unfulfilled desire always shows a lack of God-centered prayer? (Be honest!) Why or why not?

Is it possible to have an unfulfilled desire that's very important to you — but which you are not frustrated about? How might that work?

Does God really want us to seek our heart-satisfaction only in Him? Does that mean it's wrong to find pleasure in other things? What's the difference?

What does James 4:1-10 teach you about your prayer life? What could you do to make your prayer more God-centered? Why do you think it has not been very God-centered?

What's your take-away from this message? What are you going to do differently? When? How?

Share prayer requests that come up in the discussion, jot them down below, and pray for each other.

**New Testament** **March - September 2010**

**A Letter from Jesus' Brother James**

**Faith without works is dead**

**Sundays 10 AM**

**mercy hill church**