

UNDERSTANDING WHY WE FIGHT WITH THE PEOPLE WE LOVE

James 4:1-10



kairos church



SYNOPSIS

This past Sunday, Pastor Peter preached from the book of James on reasons we can get in such deep conflict with those that we love. The three focuses of this sermon were: the cause of conflict, God's diagnosis of the conflict, and God's resolution to conflict.

James is speaking to a church that is not only facing external pressure (through persecution and trials), but also internal pressure through conflict with one another. We see an ongoing conflict within the church as people gravitate towards the pleasures/lust of the flesh. Not only that, but we tend to believe in lies that ruin relationships and put echo chambers around us that confirm what we want to believe.

The truth is, as James warns us, we need to be extremely careful of the signs of self-reliance and self-rule. But God loves us too much to leave us alone. In His Jealousy, He confronts us in our spiritual adultery. We are adulterers in that we have given our heart to the world and the measure of fulfillment and success that it tells us to pursue.

God's resolution to conflict looks different than ours. His resolution is humility. As we humble ourselves, He will exalt us and bring reconciliation and healing to us. He will bring reconciliation and healing to our relationships.



OUTLINE

1 THE CAUSE OF CONFLICT

The key word is "pleasure." The cause of our conflicts is quarreling that stems from us pursuing the pleasures of the flesh. A few of the lies we believe that ruin relationships:

1. Sensual pleasure will satisfy our inner longing for happiness
2. If other people would shape up my life would be problem free
3. My significance and value are measured by the quality and the quantity of the things I possess.

We also try to fulfill our desires apart from God through self-reliance and self-rule

When Whe

2 GOD'S DIAGNOSIS OF THE CONFLICT

God calls this adultery - that in our spiritual adultery, we are 'sleeping with' or giving our heart to the world and the measure of fulfillment and success it falsely promises to us. As we pursue these things, it leaves us more broken and in more conflict than if we were to give ourselves to God.

3 GOD'S RESOLUTION TO CONFLICT

The Good News is that God's Jealousy is stirred and He pursues us and disciplines us to bring us back into a right relationship with Him. Here are some practical steps to resolve conflict: Give in to God | Get tough with Satan | Get close to God | Sincerely apologize
Ultimately, humility is the way forward. As we humble ourselves, He will exalt us and bring healing and reconciliation.



DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1

Icebreaker: What's the silliest thing you got in conflict with someone over?

2

What was a lie you believed that would bring you happiness that was ultimately disappointing?

3

Are their current broken relationships in your life that God is asking you to rely on him to amend and to seek his wisdom?

4

What does humility look like for you in the relationships God has placed you in?

5

Are there signs that reveal your self reliance and self sufficiency rather than depending on God?

6

Which of the "practical steps" mentioned in God's Resolution to Conflict is the most difficult for you?



BIG IDEA

This pandemic has created a lot of opportunities for conflict with our family and friends. As we examine the causes of conflict, let's be humble as we reflect on the ways we have sought to resolve these conflicts by our own strength. And as we recognize the ways that we have strayed from God's prescription to conflict resolution, let's turn back to Him and trust that His way is better.