

Introduction: Piercing words – wounded lives

The _____ cause of interpersonal conflicts is our consuming passion for _____ - _____.

What is causing the quarrels and fights among you? Don't they come from the evil desires at war within you? You want what you don't have, so you scheme and kill to get it. You are jealous of what others have, but you can't get, so you fight and wage war to take it away from them. Yet you don't have what you want because you don't ask God for it. And even when you ask, you don't get it because your motives are all wrong. You want only what will give you pleasure.

James 4:1-3

- Our Problem:

- The Symptoms:

- Our Strategy:

- The Results:

God's Prescription: _____ and God will heal your relationships.

So humble yourselves before God. Resist the devil and he will flee from you. Come close to God, and God will come close to you. Wash your hands you sinners; purify your hearts, for your loyalty is divided between God and the world. Let there be tears for what you have done. Let there be sorrow and deep grief. Let there be sadness instead of laughter, and gloom instead of joy. Humble yourselves before the Lord, and He will lift you up in honor.

James 4: 7-10

Steps to Diffuse Conflict:

1. _____
"Submit yourselves therefore to God . . ."
James 4:7a

2. _____
"Resist the devil and he will flee from you."
James 4:7b

3. _____
"Draw near to God and He will draw near to you."
James 4:8a

4. _____
"Cleanse your hands . . . purify your hearts . . ."
James 4:8b

God's promise for the humble is: He will _____ you up. James 4:10

Application:

1. What is at the core of our conflicts with other people?
2. Briefly define “hedonism” in your own words.
3. Why is hedonism a lie? How are we influenced to unconsciously “buy into” its philosophy daily?
4. How does God view our strategies to gratify ourselves apart from Him?
5. What is the solution to interpersonal conflict?
6. What specifically is involved in “humbling ourselves” before God and others?
7. Is there a specific relationship that needs attention in your life?
8. What would humbling yourself look like in this situation?