

Agape House of Worship
Mid-Week Bible Study
Wednesday, March 20, 2024

Topic: Wisdom for living

Part 8: The cause of quarrels

Text: James 4:1-12

Speaker: Pastor Patrick Ahiadzi

Objective: We will be studying the 4th chapter of James to discuss the causes of quarrels and how to apply biblical wisdom so we can live in harmony with one another.

Message Introduction: James Chapter 4:1-12 builds on the end of chapter 3, describing how living according to the world's wisdom led to great conflict among Christians. They were fighting with each other because they couldn't get what they wanted. James gives several reasons why the church was in that condition and he gave 11 exhortations on how to overcome this sin. Christians are called to be peacemakers in God's house and not troublemakers. We are all guilty of causing strife among God's people and in our own families because of our sinful nature. Today, we are going to study and see biblical and practical ways by which we can prevent quarrels in our families, communities and in the church.

Study the Scriptures: Read the Passage James 4:1-12

Discussion questions

1. Describe a situation when an issue you've been battling in your heart spilled over into your actions or relationships.
2. Why do we find it difficult to trust God with areas of conflict?
3. How does our relationship with God help to foster healthy relationships in our family and in the church?
4. What does it mean to judge a brother?
5. Does this mean we can't point out others' sins? Why or why not?
6. If we know that humility is the key to defusing conflicts, why do we struggle so much with being humble when it comes to conflicts in relationships?

Negative effects of quarreling amongst believers

- ❖ It affects the flow of anointing. Psalm 133:1-3
- ❖ It brings division amongst families, couples and church members. Acts 15:39, Joseph and his siblings.
- ❖ Our sacrifices will not be accepted. Matthew 5:23-24
- ❖ We don't represent God in a good way. Hebrews 12:1

Application:

- ❖ Practicing contentment.

1 Timothy 6:1-7 These are the things you are to teach and insist on. 3If anyone teaches otherwise and does not agree to the sound instruction of our Lord Jesus Christ and to godly teaching, 4they are conceited and understand nothing. They have an unhealthy interest in controversies and quarrels about words that result in envy, strife, malicious talk, evil suspicions 5and constant friction between people of corrupt mind, who have been robbed of the truth and who think that godliness is a means to financial gain. 6But godliness with contentment is great gain. 7For we brought nothing into the world, and we can take nothing out of it.

Philippians 4: 11 I have learned to be content whatever the circumstances.

- ❖ Choosing our words carefully.

Proverbs 12:18 The words of the reckless pierce like swords, but the tongue of the wise brings healing.

- ❖ Walking in love.

1 Corinthians 13:4-7 Love is patient, love is kind and is not jealous; love does not brag and is not arrogant, 5does not act unbecomingly; it does not seek its own, is not provoked, does not take into account a wrong suffered, 6does not rejoice in unrighteousness, but rejoices with the truth; 7bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things.

- ❖ Do not give the devil a foothold in your life by holding on to an offense.

Ephesians 4:26-27 "In your anger do not sin" Do not let the sun go down while you are still angry, 27and do not give the devil a foothold.

- ❖ Learn to forgive people.

Romans 12:17-18 Do not repay anyone evil for evil. Be careful to do what is right in the eyes of everyone. 18If it is possible, as far as it depends on you, live at peace with everyone.

Practical ways to avoid quarreling.

- ❖ Try to put emotions aside.
- ❖ Communicate your side of the story clearly and honestly.
- ❖ Resist the urge to bring up other unresolved but unrelated issues.
- ❖ Try to separate the problem from the person.
- ❖ Respect the other person's point of view by paying attention and listening.