Why Can't We All Get Along?

James 4:1-11

James 4:1 (ESV) What causes quarrels and what causes fights among you? Is it not this, that your passions are at war within you?

Battle # 1: The War Within

Is it not this, that your passions are at war within you? (verse 1b).

- We are messed up on the outside because we are messed up on the inside.

Battle # 2: The War Without

James 4:2 (ESV) You desire and do not have, so you murder. You covet and cannot obtain, so you fight and quarrel. You do not have, because you do not ask.

Matthew 5:21-22 (ESV) 21 “You have heard that it was said to those of old, ‘You shall not murder; and whoever murders will be liable to judgment.’ 22 But I say to you that everyone who is angry with his brother will be liable to judgment; whoever insults his brother will be liable to the council; and whoever says, ‘You fool!’ will be liable to the hell of fire.

Battle # 3: The War Above

James 4:2-4 (ESV) 2 You desire and do not have, so you murder. You covet and cannot obtain, so you fight and quarrel. You do not have, because you do not ask. 3 You ask and do not receive, because you ask wrongly, to spend it on your passions. 4 You adulterous people! Do you not know that friendship with the world is enmity with God? Therefore whoever wishes to be a friend of the world makes himself an enemy of God.

- There is self-reliance.

“You do not have, because you do not ask.” (verse 2b)

- There is selfish prayer.

- There is spiritual adultery.

You adulterous people! Do you not know that friendship with the world is enmity with God? (verse 4a)
**Judges 2:17 (ESV)** Yet they did not listen to their judges, for they whored after other gods and bowed down to them. They soon turned aside from the way in which their fathers had walked, who had obeyed the commandments of the LORD, and they did not do so.

Therefore whoever wishes to be a friend of the world makes himself an enemy of God. (Verse 4b)

**1 John 2:17 (ESV)** And the world is passing away along with its desires, but whoever does the will of God abides forever.

**What is the answer?**

**James 4:5 (ESV)** Or do you suppose it is to no purpose that the Scripture says, “He yearns jealously over the spirit that he has made to dwell in us”?

**Exodus 20:5-6 (ESV)** 5 You shall not bow down to them or serve them, for I the LORD your God am a jealous God, visiting the iniquity of the fathers on the children to the third and the fourth generation of those who hate me, 6 but showing steadfast love to thousands of those who love me and keep my commandments.

What is it that God is jealous for? He is jealous for our undivided attention, our exclusive focus on him.

**Romans 6:13 (ESV)** Do not present your members to sin as instruments for unrighteousness, but present yourselves to God as those who have been brought from death to life, and your members to God as instruments for righteousness.

**James 4:6-11 (ESV)** 6 But he gives more grace. Therefore it says, “God opposes the proud, but gives grace to the humble.” 7 Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you. 8 Draw near to God, and he will draw near to you. Cleanse your hands, you sinners, and purify your hearts, you double-minded. 9 Be wretched and mourn and weep. Let your laughter be turned to mourning and your joy to gloom. 10 Humble yourselves before the Lord, and he will exalt you. 11 Do not speak evil against one another, brothers. The one who speaks against a brother or judges his brother, speaks evil against the law and judges the law. But if you judge the law, you are not a doer of the law but a judge.