

Introduction

How well you _____ this passage boils down to whether you really believe in the _____ of Scripture.

God has explained _____ conflicts occur and _____ we should deal with them.

The more we understand and _____ what He teaches, the more effective we will be in _____ and resolving disagreements with other people.

Why We Fight (v. 1)

Quarrels =

Conflicts =

The Bible says that when disagreements turn into _____, they are the direct result of sinful _____ and actions.

Cross references on conflict not being God’s will for the church:

Pleasures =

Wage war =

The root of these conflicts was selfish, indulgent _____ in the hearts of those involved.

Selfish _____ drive believers to wage war within themselves, as their desire to serve Christ and neighbor conflicts with the desire to serve _____.

The Bible also refers to these desires as _____.

“An _____ is anything that captures our hearts, minds, and affections more than _____.” – Brad Bigney

Examples of heart idols:

In effect, James’s two questions form this statement: “The _____ conflicts that exist among you arise from the _____ pleasures that are at conflict _____ of each one of you.”

How We Fight (v. 2a-b)

Lust =

Commit murder =

Envious =

When any strong, sinful lust is not _____—when a heart idol is not _____—the sinner (both unbeliever and believer) is prone to lash out in angry frustration and _____.

Frustrated _____ leads to hostility.

Desires rooted in selfish _____ lead to fights because they are so self-centered.

James explains why and how the _____ becomes a powerful weapon we use in our fight to satisfy the _____ of our heart.

Notes on the *Westminster Larger Catechism* teaching on the 9th commandment:

The wise v. foolish contrast: The wise understand that conflicts arise from _____, while the foolish look _____ themselves for the source of their problems.