

RESOLVING INTERPERSONAL CONFLICTS

James 4:1-10; 3:17-18

By Rod MacIlvaine

Introduction: Because of social media, niche podcasts and the 24-7 news cycle, people in our country have progressively clustered into various interest tribes, leading to an "us versus them" mentality. Members of one tribe tend to objectify those outside their tribe, viewing them with contempt as outsiders, even enemies. This ethos of tribalism can easily creep into local churches, disrupting Jesus' vision for Spirit-filled unity in the body of Christ. These days, followers of Jesus can become quickly divided over politics, social trends, and differing concepts about morality. The result is a divided church. In this passage, James does not identify the specific source of division; nevertheless, he challenges his readers to stop trying to solve their differences by defeating others, but rather to look to themselves. In what ways are they bringing a toxic relational style into the body of Christ? And how can they turn to God in such a way that they move toward genuine unity? This morning we talk about resolving interpersonal differences in God's power.

1. **The Sense of Urgency**

James 4:1a

2. **The Cause of Conflict**

James 4:1b-4

3. The Cure for Conflict

James 4:5-10

4. Main Idea

5. Takeaways