

Becoming Mature in Christ

How to End Wars

James 4:1-12

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Introduction:

- The Second Gulf War lasted over 20 years.
 - Americans are familiar with many wars:
 - *The Crusades*
 - *French and Indian War*
 - *The American Revolution*
 - *War of 1812*
 - *The American Civil War*
 - *WWI – WWII*
 - But have you heard of:
 - *The War of the Whiskers*
 - *The War of Oaken Bucket*
 - *The War of Jenkin's Ear*
 - **James 4:1-12**
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1. War with Each Other:

- a. **James 4:1**
- b. This letter is written to the church – Those who have already responded to the Terms of Pardon.
- c. As Christians mature in Christ, we should be willing to work through issues as opposed to making them worse.
- d. A few arguments found in scripture:
 1. **Genesis 16**
 2. **Matthew 18**
 3. **1st Corinthians 1**
 4. **Galatians 5:14-15**
- e. So, what does everyone have to argue about?
- f. There are many reasons why people bicker within the church – jealousy, frustration, envy, assuming something, gossiping.
- g. It is sad that Christians war with each other, because we have a spiritual war to wage.
- h. If we are consumed with our frustrations, we cannot take the battle to the REAL enemy.

- i. A few things to consider before we participate in trivial arguments:
 1. Jesus is watching – **Matthew 17:20-23 ... Philipians 2:1-4**
 2. The world is watching the church – **Matthew 5:13-16**
 3. Our children are watching – **Deuteronomy 11:13 ... Matthew 18:5-6**

2. War with Ourselves:

- a. **James 4:1**
- b. **James 3:16**
- c. The essence of sin is selfishness.
- d. Eve disobeyed – **Genesis 3**
- e. Abraham disobeyed – **Genesis 12**
- f. God knows our heart.
- g. Miriam and Aaron – **Numbers 12**
- h. James and John – **Matthew 18**
- i. **James 4:2-3**
- j. Prayer is not about getting our will done in Heaven ... It is about getting God's Will done on earth.

3. War with God:

- a. The root cause of every war is rebellion against God.
- b. Sin is nothing more than our rebellion against God and His standards.
- c. If we are in the Word daily ... If we are in study weekly ... If we are in church and surrounding ourselves with people who love the Lord ... We feel right with God.
- d. But if we do not do these things, we begin to drift away.
- e. **James 4:4**
- f. How do we prevent wars from occurring in our lives, if we are saved but not where we need to be?
 1. Submit to Jesus – **Psalm 31 ... Psalm 51**
 2. Draw near to God – **1st John 1:9**
 3. Humble yourself before God – **James 4:10**
- g. Sin is so serious Jesus suffered at Calvary for it.