



## **Learning to Be Content (Part 1)**

**James 4:1-12**

# I. Earthly Wisdom (3:14-16) → Mundane Desires and Discontentment (4:1-4)

- 1. What causes quarrels and what causes fights among you? Is it not this, that your passions are at war within you? 2. You desire and do not have, so you murder. You covet and cannot obtain, so you fight and quarrel. **(James 4:1-2a)**
- Examples of desires leading to murder:
- King David conspires for the death of Uriah in battle over his desire for Bathsheba (2 Samuel 11)
- Ahab and Jezebel conspire for the death of Naboth over Ahab's desire for Naboth's vineyard (I Kings 21)

# I. Earthly Wisdom (3:14-16) → Mundane Desires and Discontentment (4:1-4)

- 2b. 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. **(James 4:2b-4)**
- “If we cannot say, ‘Lord, bless me as I do this thing,’ we ought not to be doing it at all” (John Blanchard, *Truth for Life*, p. 247)

## II. Heavenly Wisdom (3:17-18) → Godly Desires and Contentment (4:5-10)

- <sup>5</sup> 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”?
- 6. But he gives more grace. Therefore, it says, “god opposes the proud but gives grace to the humble. **(James 4:5-6)**

## II. Heavenly Wisdom (3:17-18) → Godly Desires and Contentment (4:5-10)

- 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 ~~purity~~ purify your hearts, you double-minded. **(James 4:7-8)**

## **II. Heavenly Wisdom (3:17-18) → Godly Desires and Contentment (4:5-10)**

- 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.

**(James 4:9-10)**

### III. Contentment in Practice: Judge Not Your Neighbor (4:11-12)

- <sup>11</sup> 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. ~~But if you judge the law, you are not a doer of the law, but a judge.~~
- 12. There is only one lawgiver and judge, he who is able to save and to destroy. But who are you to judge your neighbor? **(James 4:11-12)**

# Takeaways

1. Achieving Contentment Requires Being Content
2. Be Humble, Let Go, Let God
3. Spend More Time Improving Yourself than Improving Others



# Let Us Pray

