



Real Faith // Real Action

#8 What Causes Fights?

Introduction: If we can guarantee one thing in life, it's that we will be involved in an argument or disagreement of some sort. It's normal for families, spouses, at work and in our education system. Our news reports are full of fighting, bickering and disagreements, and if you dare to watch our parliamentary sessions, they can be very argumentative. And churches are not exempt from internal fighting so nothing has changed in 2000 years when James first wrote this to the dispersed Christians. Why do we fight? What is the source of all the disagreement and what can we do about it? James gives some wise counsel.

Play and listen to... *"Spirit of the Living God"*

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ogGOIGswStA>

Pray: That God would open up our eyes to someone who needs to be disciplined by you.

Read: James 4:1-12

Play video: <https://youtu.be/mVOBmJwSs-Y>

Share for 1 min each what your "take away" thought is from this video

Thoughts to share:

- Whom did you quarrel with most growing up?
- When you quarrel, do you seek to understand what desire is really motivating you?
- How might your relationships be impacted if, in the midst of your anger, you acknowledge that part of the problem is *you're not getting what you want*?
- When it comes to dealing with contentious relationships someone summarised James wisdom by saying *"The solution is to humble ourselves, to admit where we have fallen short, to pray for the things that God cares about, to mourn over our sinfulness, to receive God's grace."* Which aspect do you struggle with?
- Read James 4:11-12 in the Message translation or The Passion Translation (it's a little less confusing there!). When we fail to love, we are actually breaking God's law (Matt 22:37-40). Do you build people up (consciously and specifically) or tear them down?

Consider:

When you find yourself caught up in anger in an argument or disagreement of some sort

- Pause
- Own your part
- Acknowledge that it's OK not to get your way.... and watch the contention subside.

Pray - for our relationships. Focus in on the ones that are proving to be difficult, and ask God to help us desire to keep things right in the relationships, not being right ourselves.