

## THE CONFLICT THAT STOLE CHRISTMAS

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Notes:

When families get together, conflict can abound. We can get frustrated with each other instead of celebrating with each other. James reminds us that, instead of fighting with others, we can trust in God to bring ultimate justice to all, even when we feel as though others have wronged us .

**What causes fights and quarrels among you? Don't they come from your desires that battle within you? <sup>2</sup> You desire but do not have, so you kill. You covet but you cannot get what you want, so you quarrel and fight. You do not have because you do not ask God. <sup>3</sup> When you ask, you do not receive, because you ask with wrong motives, that you may spend what you get on your pleasures. – James 4:1-3**

**Come near to God and he will come near to you. Wash your hands, you sinners, and purify your hearts, you double-minded. <sup>9</sup> Grieve, mourn and wail. Change your laughter to mourning and your joy to gloom. <sup>10</sup> Humble yourselves before the Lord, and He will lift you up. <sup>11</sup> Brothers and sisters, do not slander one another. Anyone who speaks against a brother or sister or judges them speaks against the law and judges it. When you judge the law, you are not keeping it, but sitting in judgment on it. <sup>12</sup> There is only one Lawgiver and Judge, the one who is able to save and destroy. But you – who are you to judge your neighbor? – James 4:8-12**

### My Next Step(s):

- I will strive to put others' needs before my desires.
- I will not push God to the margins (marginalize) of my life.
- I will strive to resolve my conflicts with God first—then with others.
- In humility, I will not assume the worst in others, but rather assume the best.
- In charity, I will put the best construction on people, things & situations.

**Memory Verse:** If it is possible, as far as it depends on you, live at peace with everyone. - Romans 12:18 (NIV)

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*(This message uses materials provided The Preaching Project, San Antonio, TX.)*