

THE WISDOM OF GOSPEL HUMILITY

James 4:1-10

Peace-promoting wisdom is fostered by God-glorifying humility and forfeited without it.

I. You need gospel *conviction* (vv. 1-5).

II. You need gospel *conversion* (vv. 6-10).

QUESTIONS FOR FAMILY WORSHIP

1. What is an autoimmune disease? How is it a fitting analogy of what James is addressing here?
2. What is at the heart of all sinful conflict in the church? Why is it important to get to the heart of the matter?
3. Why does James talk about prayer in the context of conflict (vv. 2-3)? What does prayerlessness and wrong praying have to do with fighting in the church?
4. Our sinful jealousy leads to fights. But how does God's holy jealousy encourage us to stop fighting?
5. What text does James quote in v. 6, and how does he apply it to us?
6. How can we cleanse our hands and purify our hearts?
7. How does the gospel lead to humility? And how does humility lead to unity in the church?

QUESTIONS FOR PRIVATE REFLECTION

1. Think of a recent conflict. What did I want? Why did I want it? What do those desires reveal about my heart?
2. Why can't I be a friend of the world and a friend of God simultaneously?
3. Does my spirituality have a category for the agony and gloom that James literally calls sinners into? Why, or why not?
4. Am I at war with a fellow Christian within or outside of the local church? How could I pursue after gospel humility in this situation and what effects might it have?