

SUPPLEMENTAL LESSON 8: RECONCILIATION

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. 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. ⁵ 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." ⁷ Submit yourselves therefore to God ... ¹⁰ Humble yourselves before the Lord, and he will exalt you. - James 4:1-7, 10

Conflicts reveal a deeper problem that is always _____ than you think. (vv. 1-2)

- Our perspective allows us to view conflict however we want.
- God's perspective gives a much more sobering and devastating reality.
(See also Matthew 5:21; Proverbs 12:18; 18:21)

The fundamental issue in conflict is always _____ than you think. (vv. 1-3)

Diagnosing the Main Issue in Conflict

Q: Where should you look? A: _____

Q: What are you looking for? A: _____

Conflicts don't create the problem; they _____ the problem.

How do you discover your cravings?

- o Ask yourself, "What am I defending? ...afraid of? ...fighting for?" (see next page for some common cravings)
- o Ask yourself, "Is my main desire to honor God and be a blessing?"

The solution to conflict is _____ than you think. (vv. 6-10)

To solve conflict, you must _____ yourself before God and *then* your spouse.

- o Before God = submit to God (v. 7), draw near (v. 8), confess and repent
- o Before your spouse = confess in a way that is sincere, specific and brief



COMMON CRAVINGS OF THE HEART

I “need” to be/feel...

- worthy, acceptable
- desired/desirable
- secure (e.g. in the relationship, financially, in my job, etc.)
- in control
- needed
- connected (to my spouse)
- valued, prioritized
- comfortable, rested
- right, vindicated
- righteous
- successful, accomplished
- liked
- recognized (not taken for granted)
- respected
- approved of (by spouse, boss, neighbors, or _____)