

The Letter of James: Transformed by Christ

What causes quarrels and what causes fights among you? Is it not this, that your passions are at war within you? 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. You ask and do not receive, because you ask wrongly, to spend it on your passions.

James 4:1-3

----- War and Peace -----

1. The cause of conflict: Selfish desires
 - The surprising source: our own internal desires

You cause the grass to grow for the livestock and plants for man to cultivate, that he may bring forth food from the earth and wine to gladden the heart of man, oil to make his face shine and bread to strengthen man's heart.

Psalm 104:14-15

For everything created by God is good, and nothing is to be rejected if it is received with thanksgiving.

1 Timothy 4:4

----- War and Peace -----

1. The cause of conflict: Selfish desires
 - The surprising source: our own internal desires
 - What makes these desires go wrong?
 - Our desires become demands
 - Our desires are self-seeking
 - Ask yourself:
 - What is it that I want? What are my desires in this situation?
 - Why do I want it so badly? What has made this desire into a demand so that I'm willing to fight for it?

----- War and Peace -----

1. The cause of conflict: Selfish desires
2. The human cost of selfish desires: Broken relationships
3. The spiritual cost of selfish desires: Thwarted prayers