

WANT WARS

James 4:1-6

What causes quarrels and what causes fights among you? Is it not this, that your passions are at war within you? (4:1)

No one ever rightly understands and weighs desires without God's self-revelation in Scripture. Neither lowbrow common sense nor highbrow personality theory gets it straight. God must show us how to properly interpret our wants, because we are compulsive misinterpreters: we don't want the true interpretation. It's too threatening to the pursuit of godless autonomy that is our deepest, darkest, most persistent and most inadmissible passion.

David Powlison

A Cross Section on Conflict

1. What you are _____ in conflict (2-3)

- You are _____ -

"you desire" = _____, desire strongly, _____

- You are _____ -

"covet" = a _____ desire to _____

- You are _____ -

God bestows not gifts only, but the enjoyment of them: but the enjoyment which contributes to nothing beyond itself is not what He gives in answer to prayer; and petitions to Him which have no better end in view are not prayers.

Hort

2. _____ you are _____ in conflict (4)

- _____ people -
- _____ of the world -
- _____ of God -

* So far, James has relocated the source of conflicts from ...

_____ → _____
_____ → _____

3. What _____ is _____ in conflict (5-6)

- _____ for your _____ -

...for I the Lord your God am a jealous God" Exodus 20:5

- _____ more _____ -

* Conflict _____ our _____ and
_____ us for _____ !

- James warns us not to _____ from conflict.
- James invites us to _____ conflict back to its _____.
- James calls us to _____.