



COMMUNITY GUIDE

June 27, 2021

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WEEKLY APPLICATION

TAKEAWAY: A mark of spiritual maturity is to become a peacemaker, not a troublemaker.

HEAD CHANGE: If there is any area of your life that is kept back from God, there will always be unnecessary battles in your life.

HEART CHANGE: My submission to God brings peace with God and others.

LIFE CHANGE: If the truth about someone is harmful, then we should cover it in love and not repeat it. If they have sinned, we should go to them personally and try to win them back.

OVERVIEW

In the church at Jerusalem who James was writing to, there was some major fighting, problems, conflict, and drama.

Unfortunately, not unlike what churches across the world still experience today. This is why a lot of people never give church a chance. Many people are open to God, they're just turned off by His church. Not only do we fight with people within the church – we fight with people outside the church. People who don't believe what I believe, behave how I behave, value what I value, support what I support, vote how I vote. We spend so much time fighting unnecessary wars that only divides us further. But why are we at war with one another? We belong to the same family, we trust the same Savior, we are indwelt by the same Holy Spirit and yet we fight one another. James chapter four lays out how we can become spiritually mature by becoming peacemakers not troublemakers.

“But the wisdom from above is first of all pure. It is also peace loving, gentle at all times, and willing to yield to others. It is full of mercy and the fruit of good deeds. It shows no favoritism and is always sincere. And those who are peacemakers will plant seeds of peace and reap a harvest of righteousness”

-James 3:17-18-

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. What are some of the reasons Christians war against each other today?
2. Why are these wars a particularly bad commentary on Christians and the Church today? (See John 13:34-35)
3. Jordan said we receive God's grace when we submit to God, draw near to God, and humble ourselves before God. Take a minute to reflect and discuss what that looks like in your life. Is there any area of your life that you have kept back from God?

CLOSE IN PRAYER

Heavenly Father, thank you for not only being God but for being my Father. When I think about you as my lovingly Heavenly Father, it makes it easier for me to submit entirely to you. I ask that you help me to become a peacemaker in every arena of my life. May I promote peace in my home, my church, and my vocation so that my witness for Jesus will grow stronger. In Jesus' name, amen.

IN THIS TOGETHER!