

Real Faith: Real Conflict

How do I navigate relational conflicts God's way? (James 4:1-5)

1. When in conflict, look within first. (James 4:1b)

Reflection questions:

- Do I need to be right all the time?
- Do I need to have the last say?
- Do I get angry when I don't get my way?
- Do I get passive aggressive when in conflict with others?
- Do I blacklist people whenever they cross me?
- Do I deny my piece of the conflict or am I completely innocent?

Pay attention to where envy is leading me. (James 4:2b-3)

Hostility toward others feeds hostility toward God.

How is God challenging me to pray for those I am in conflict with?

2. Pursue a posture of humility. (James 4:6-12)

"The more pride dies in me, the more Christ can live in me."

The Posture of Arrogance vs. Humility in Conflict:

- Arrogance says: "You, listen to me!"
- Humility says: "I want to listen."
- Arrogance says: "I'll slander your reputation if you disagree with me."
- Humility says: "I'll defend your honor even if we disagree on this issue."
- Arrogance says: "I am more concerned about being right than being reconciled."
- Humility says: "I am willing to lay aside the need to be right so that we can be reconciled."

Romans 12:18 If it is possible, as far as it depends on you, live at peace with everyone.

Romans 14:19 Let us therefore make every effort to do what leads to peace and to mutual edification.

What conflict do I need to bring to God this week, and commit to work through it His way?