

"Fighting the Fighting in the Fellowship"
James 4:7-10 Pastor Bob Brandhagen

The Purpose: To bring ten specific commands and three blessings to fight against the fighting of God's people.

In the immediately preceding passage, James addressed fights, quarrels, spiritual adultery, and friendship with the world within the church, among God's professing people. There were no imperatives (commands) in that passage, though I concluded that sermon on James 4:1-6 with the exhortation to (1) stop fighting God's people; (2) start praying and don't stop; (3) stop being a friend of the world. Those were fine applications to tide you over until we got to this week's passage and James' commands and blessings in James 4:7-10.

Here are God's 10 applications (4:7-10) to remedy the fighting, adultery, and worldliness (4:1-6) of the professing church:

Command 1: Submit yourselves, then, to God.

When God places His order on our lives—through His word—we must submit to it.

Some people do not like to submit to any kind of authority. They will not obey parents, teachers, pastors, police, or anyone else. We call people who will not submit to authority felons, sociopaths, and anarchists.

How do we submit to God? When you read Scripture or hear it preached, rearrange you life to match it.

Command 2: Resist the devil, 1 Peter 5:8-9 Zech 3:1-5 Eph 6:10-13 Acts 7:51

How do we resist the Devil? Look no further than to Jesus in Matthew 4:4, 7, 10—"It is written . . . it is written . . . it is written!"

Meditate on God's word day and night (Psa 1), for it is the sword of the Spirit (Eph 6:17), with which you may slay temptation!

First Promise-Blessing: **and he will flee from you.**

Command 3: ⁸Come near to God Gen 27:26-27

How do we come near to God? Again, it has everything to do with His word. If you are nowhere in God's word, you are nowhere near God in terms of fellowship. How do we come near to God? It has to do with fellowship with one another, worship, prayer, obedience.

Second Promise-Blessing: **and he will come near to you.**

If you don't come near to God—word, fellowship, worship, prayer, obedience—He won't come near to you.
Psa 73:28 Psa 75:1 Psa 84:1-4 Eccl 5:1 Jer 23:23-24 James 5:7-8

Command 4: Wash your hands, you sinners, and

Ps 24:3-4 Matt 15:1-2 Matt 27:24 1 John 1:9

Command 5: purify your hearts, you double-minded.

Commands 6, 7, 8: ⁹Grieve, mourn and wail.

Command 9: Change your laughter to mourning and your joy to gloom. Luke 6:21b; 25b

Command 10: ¹⁰Humble yourselves before the Lord,

Third Promise-Blessing: **and he will lift you up.**

The Sermon-in-a-Sentence: Ten commands and a trio of happy results lead the double-minded to please the one God.

The Big Question: Will you actively fight the fighting in the fellowship by keeping James' 10 commands, and enjoying his 3 blessings?

The Gospel: "For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life. ¹⁷ For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through him. ¹⁸ Whoever believes in him is not condemned, but whoever does not believe stands condemned already because they have not believed in the name of God's one and only Son."

"Fighting the Fighting in the Fellowship"
James 4:7-10 Pastor Bob Brandhagen

The Purpose: To bring _____ specific commands and _____ blessings to fight against the fighting of God's people.

In the immediately preceding passage, James addressed fights, quarrels, spiritual adultery, and friendship with the world within the church, among God's professing people. There were no imperatives (commands) in that passage, though I concluded that sermon on James 4:1-6 with the exhortation to (1) stop fighting God's people; (2) start praying and don't stop; (3) stop being a friend of the world. Those were fine applications to tide you over until we got to this week's passage and James' commands and blessings in James 4:7-10.

Here are God's 10 applications (4:7-10) to remedy the fighting, adultery, and worldliness (4:1-6) of the professing _____:

Command 1: Submit yourselves, then, to God.

When God places His order on our lives—through His word—we _____ submit to it.

Some people do _____ like to submit to any kind of authority. They will not obey parents, teachers, pastors, police, or anyone else. We call people who will not submit to authority felons, sociopaths, and anarchists.

How do we submit to God? When you read Scripture or hear it preached, rearrange you life to _____ it.

Command 2: Resist the devil, 1 Peter 5:8-9 Zech 3:1-5 Eph 6:10-13 Acts 7:51

How do we resist the Devil? Look no further than to Jesus in Matthew 4:4, 7, 10—"It is written . . . it is written . . . it is written!"

Meditate on God's word day and night (Psa 1), for it is the sword of the Spirit (Eph 6:17), with which you may _____ temptation!

First Promise-Blessing: **and he will flee from you.**

Command 3: ⁸Come near to God Gen 27:26-27

How do we come near to God? Again, it has everything to do with His word. If you are nowhere in God's word, you are nowhere near God in terms of fellowship. How do we come near to God? It has to do with fellowship with one another, worship, prayer, obedience.

Second Promise-Blessing: **and he will come near to you.**

If you don't come near to God—word, fellowship, worship, prayer, obedience—He won't come near to you.
Psa 73:28 Psa 75:1 Psa 84:1-4 Eccl 5:1 Jer 23:23-24 James 5:7-8

Command 4: Wash your hands, you sinners, and

Ps 24:3-4 Matt 15:1-2 Matt 27:24 1 John 1:9

Command 5: purify your hearts, you double-minded.

Commands 6, 7, 8: ⁹Grieve, mourn and wail.

Command 9: Change your laughter to mourning and your joy to gloom. Luke 6:21b; 25b

Command 10: ¹⁰Humble yourselves before the Lord,

Third Promise-Blessing: **and he will lift you up.**

The Sermon-in-a-Sentence: Ten commands and a trio of happy results lead the double-minded to please the _____ God.

The Big Question: Will you actively _____ the fighting in the fellowship by keeping James' 10 commands, and enjoying his 3 blessings?

The Gospel: "For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life. ¹⁷ For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through him. ¹⁸ Whoever believes in him is not condemned, but whoever does not believe stands condemned already because they have not believed in the name of God's one and only Son."