

Pick Your Battle
James 4:1-12 – March 8, 2026
David Leach

The Symptoms: fights, envy, selfish motives, unanswered prayers, and worldly living.

The Problem: Pride causes us to fight the wrong battles. (v. 1)

The battle we should be fighting is against the earthly things within us. (Col. 3:5)

The battle we end up fighting is against each other. (v. 2-3)

As described by Scripture, pride...

- is self-exaltation against God.
- refuses to depend on God.
- sets self over others.

Are you God's friend or foe? (v. 4)

God gives abundant grace to those who humble themselves before him. (v. 6)

The Answer: Submit to God and resist the devil. (v. 7)

Submitting to God involves:

- Resisting the devil (v. 7)
- Seeking God repentantly (v. 8)
- Pursuing purity inside and out (v. 8)
- Taking sin seriously (v. 9)

It's really hard to repent from sin that doesn't break your heart. (v. 9)

Good news—you don't have to remain broken. God exalts the humble. (v. 10)

Judging vs. Speaking Truth (v. 11-12)

- Whose truth are you speaking—yours or God's?
- What are you trying to accomplish?

Concerning conflict, especially among believers: We don't fight to win the argument, we fight to win the person.

The battle we should be fighting is the battle within, and the only way to win the war within is to surrender to the
God above.