Read James 4:1-3

- PRAY
  - Wisdom for myself and the body
  - Security in our identity in Jesus Christ
- Did any of us do the home work from last week?
  - The prerequisites to receiving God’s wisdom from James 3:17
- Engage the body to discuss their experience. (2-3 Mins)

**Peace:**
- In Luke 10, Jesus sends out the 72 (some versions “70”), and instructs them to go door to door, and say “Peace be with you” and if a “son of peace” was there – they should enter and tell them Messiah has come – the Kingdom of God is here.

*** WE SERVE GOD WHEN WE REMEMBER WHO WE ARE IN JESUS CHRIST AND HIS PURPOSE FOR US ***

Today we will be discussing war (for the most part):

- September 2, 1945
  - Gen Douglas MacArthur on the USS Missouri (End of WWII) Tokyo Bay
    - “Today the guns are silent...the skies no longer rain death...the seas bear only commerce...men everywhere walk upright in the sunlight.
    - *The entire world is quietly at peace....*
    - The Cost of War - 60 million lives & 1.6 trillion dollars (Combined)
    - WWII was 1 generation after the “war to end war” (WWI) (HG Wells & Woodrow Wilson)
  - The history of the world is a history of war. (Vietnam, Iraq, Afghanistan, Libya, Grenada, etc.)
    - *Lesson from history: Wars always have a cost and War is a recurring state.*
- James comes to the similar conclusions about the war inside of each of us.
  - *War carries a personal cost and is recurring when we do not seek God with a pure heart.*

**Opening Statements** (2 Rhetorical Questions)

- 4:1 - What causes quarrels and what causes fights among you?
  - Greek: “Quarrels” = polemos (pä-li-moss)
    - a war
    - a fight, a battle
    - a dispute, strife, quarrel
    - *The strife between parties*
  - Greek = “Fights” machē (mä'-khā)
    - a fight or combat
      - a. of those in arms, a battle
      - b. of persons at variance, disputants
      - c. a quarrel
    - *The people involved in conflict*

- 4:1 - Is it not this, that your passions are at war within you? (Rugby Scrum)
  - Greek: “Passions” = hēdonē (hā-do-nā)
    - pleasure
    - desires for pleasure
  - Modern English = Hedonism (he-don-ism)
    - the pursuit of pleasure; *sensual* self-indulgence.
    - A Resort in Jamaica with the tagline "Be Wicked For A Week"
• **Context of 4:1 – “Christians At War with One Another”**

   *Followers of Jesus Christ in unrighteous conflicts driven by unrighteous motives and behaviors*

• “WAR”: Similar language is used by Paul and Peter in other letters.
  - Paul in Romans 7:23 (57-58 AD) (Church at Rome - Jews & Gentiles)
    “but I see in my members another law waging war against the law of my mind and making me captive to the law of sin that dwells in my members.”

• Peter in 1 Peter 2:11 (67-68 AD) (churches in Asia-minor - Jews & Gentiles)
  “Beloved, I urge you as sojourners and exiles to abstain from the passions of the flesh, which wage war against your soul.”

• Doing life together as followers of Jesus Christ to the glory of God: James, Peter, and Paul.
  - Galatians 1:18-20
  - Paul spent 15 days at the church in Jerusalem and stayed with Peter and met James.

***** DOING LIFE ALONE: EASY TO FORGET WHO WE ARE IN JESUS CHRIST AND GOD’S PURPOSE FOR US ***

The Charges (Examining our ‘Passions’)

• **4:2 - You desire and do not have, so you murder.**
  You covet and cannot obtain, so you fight and quarrel.

  - We are given no specifics outside of ‘covet’ and ‘murder’ in these verses.
  - Examine the meaning of ‘passions’ from 4:1 (the Greek word “hēdonē”)
    ▪ Used 3 Times in the NT
      - James 4:1 & James 4:3
      - Titus 3:3 helps to fill in the deeper meaning.
        “For we ourselves were once foolish, disobedient, led astray, slaves to various passions and *pleasures*, passing our days in malice and envy, hated by others and hating one another.”

  - As I was preparing for today, I was struggling with what their passions may have been.
    ▪ Letter written to the 12 tribes and not a specific group.
    ▪ James 3:16, “jealousy, selfish ambition exist, causing disorder and every vile practice”
    ▪ Generalizations are generally wrong, but not in the here: ‘All Believers’.
      - Romans 3:23 “for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God”
    ▪ I was encouraged to look at myself in respect to my life within the body:
      - What am I guilty of in the 2.5 years I’ve been here at CrossRoads?
      - All my interactions in the past at Revolution, Pantano, etc.

  - As I examined my own “passions”:
    ▪ **Pride**
    ▪ **Self-centeredness**
    ▪ **Materialism**
    ▪ **Gluttony**
    ▪ **Envy**
    ▪ **Anger/Bitterness**
    ▪ **Laziness**
    ▪ **Sexual Immorality**
    ▪ **Lying**
    ▪ **Manipulation**
I can only imagine the details within the 1st century body that warranted this rebuke.

- People in the bible who did not have but wanted and took
  - Cain killed his brother, Able.
    - He was angry and jealous of his brother and killed him out of envy.
  - Jacob and Esau
    - Esau trading food for his birthright
    - Jacob lying to Isaac (father) with Rebekah’s (mother) assistance
  - David killed Uriah the Hittite.
    - Attempt to cover up his sin

What is here for us to learn and apply to our lives from these verses?

- It is not here for us to focus on specific sins of the 12 tribes (or any other believer).
- It is here to help and protect us from falling into the same trap in ourselves.

4:2 - You do not have, because you do not ask.

- The text suggests that some of them were not praying. Why?
  - Ego-Driven instead of Theo-Driven
    - I want it (self-centered)
    - I earned it (entitled)
    - I deserve it (fair)
    - I know I’m right (pride)

4-3 - You ask and do not receive, because you ask wrongly, to spend it on your passions.

- Asking Jesus, the One person who literally died to save us, to cosign our unrighteousness
  - God, please make me right so that I...
  - Luke 18:11-12
    “God, I thank you that I am not like other men, extortioners, unjust, adulterers, or even like this tax collectors. I fast twice a week; I give tithes of all that I get.”

God’s Wisdom - The Collateral Damage of War

- Fellow heirs to the kingdom who engage in conflict with one another, without using the filter of God’s wisdom, fail to experience the joy of God or show love to their closest neighbor: ‘one another’.

- When scripture is applied out of context, used solely to justify “my” position, it feeds and fuels our ‘passions’, which fails to glorify God in our lives and almost certainly to those we are claiming to serve.

Keeping the Peace

- Jesus Christ
  - Remember: In Luke 10 - Peace was offered, and if it was received, God would minister to them.
- In Our Heart
  - John 16:33 “I have said these things to you, that in me you may have peace. In the world you will have tribulation. But take heart; I have overcome the world.”

In Closing

- This is not intended to vilify conflict between brothers or sisters in Christ
  - In this room, there are several individuals that I do not see eye to eye with, about many things.
    - Quite a few I know about and many more I’m sure I am not aware of yet!
  - Open invitation to discuss my heart with anybody.
    - We each love, serve, and are made in the image the same God
  - **Not if**, but when you and I do not see something my way, I need to remember
    - It is not up to me to change any other person.
    - It is very possible that my position is not 100% correct.
• Nobody wants a church full of Wayne’s: Especially me.

• How are you doing life together in this body?
  o Share your burdens, pray together and watch God work.
    ▪ We’re going to be covering James 5:16 on May 25 (don’t wait).
  o Get Connected
    ▪ Home Groups
    ▪ Serving the body on Sunday morning
    ▪ Monday Night Woman’s Bible Study
    ▪ Thursday Morning Men’s Fellowship

Homework

• I challenge each of us to engage God and examine our hearts through the filter of James 4:1-3
  o Are there passions have we’ve allowed to take root in our hearts?
  o Remember your connection cards: Let us know how we can serve you in your walk.
  o Go and be the church – Don’t do it alone.

• PRAY