

Pride, Pleasure, Conflict

Where do wars and fights come from among you? Do they not come from your desires for pleasure that war in your members?—James 4:1

We often wonder why nations war against other nations. We hear of rioting in the streets. The news is filled with violence between people who cannot get along. Many throw up their hands in frustration wondering what is happening.

The Bible gives us insight as to the root problem. It is self-centered desire to please oneself. *“You lust and do not have (James 4:2),”* sounds like the protestors in Greece or on Wall Street. When a person’s desire for what they do not have escalates he is willing to do anything to get what he wants. *“You murder and covet and cannot obtain. You fight and you war.”*

It is easy to point a finger at the people fighting, rioting, murdering and protesting for more and more wealth that they have not earned, but we need to be careful that our actions are not motivated by a self-centered desire for what we do not have. In James 4:3 says *“. . .you ask amiss, that you may spend it on your pleasures.”*

Pride is the root of thinking that we should be given what we do not have. We think more highly of ourselves than we ought. We think we deserve more and more whether it is from God or government. Yet God says

. . . God resists the proud, but gives grace to the humble. —James 4:6