

# James 4:1

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

From whence come wars and fightings among you? come they not hence, even of your lusts that war in your members?

## Analysis

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**From whence come wars and fightings among you? come they not hence, even of your lusts that war in your members?** Conflicts (polemai, πόλεμοι) and fights (machai, μάχαι) arise from passions (hēdonōn, ἡδονῶν) at war within. James locates external strife in internal cravings. Self-centered desires turn community into battlefield.

Reformed anthropology diagnoses the heart as source of conflict. Sanctification requires addressing disordered desires, not merely behaviors.

## Historical Context

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Diaspora churches experienced disputes over resources, doctrine, and social status. James, like Paul in Galatians 5:17, explains that inner fleshly desires fuel outer wars. Roman oppression also pressured believers to compete for survival.",

## Related Passages

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**Matthew 25:31** — Final judgment

**Romans 2:1** — Judging others

## Study Questions

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1. What inner desires fuel your conflicts?
2. How can you submit those desires to Christ?
3. What practices help you pursue peace internally and externally?

## Interlinear Text

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Πόθεν	πόλεμοι	καὶ	μάχαι	ἐν	ὑμῖν	οὐκ
<b>From whence</b>	<b>come wars</b>	<b>and</b>	<b>fightings</b>	<b>among</b>	<b>you</b>	<b>come they not</b>
G4159	G4171	G2532	G3163	G1722	G5213	G3756
ἐντεῦθεν	ἐκ	τῶν	ἡδονῶν	ὑμῶν	τῶν	στρατευομένων
<b>hence</b>	<b>even of</b>		<b>lusts</b>	<b>your</b>		<b>that war</b>
G1782	G1537	G3588	G2237	G5216	G3588	G4754
ἐν	τοῖς	μέλεσιν	ὑμῶν			
<b>among</b>		<b>members</b>	<b>your</b>			
G1722	G3588	G3196	G5216			

## Additional Cross-References

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**1 Peter 2:11** (Parallel theme): Dearly beloved, I beseech you as strangers and pilgrims, abstain from fleshly lusts, which war against the soul;

**Galatians 5:17** (Parallel theme): For the flesh lusteth against the Spirit, and the Spirit against the flesh: and these are contrary the one to the other: so that ye cannot do the things that ye would.

**Romans 7:23** (Parallel theme): But I see another law in my members, warring against the law of my mind, and bringing me into captivity to the law of sin which is in my members.

**Romans 8:7** (Parallel theme): Because the carnal mind is enmity against God: for it is not subject to the law of God, neither indeed can be.

**James 1:14** (Parallel theme): But every man is tempted, when he is drawn away of his own lust, and enticed.

**Jeremiah 17:9** (Parallel theme): The heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately wicked: who can know it?

**1 Peter 1:14** (Parallel theme): As obedient children, not fashioning yourselves according to the former lusts in your ignorance:

**Colossians 3:5** (Parallel theme): Mortify therefore your members which are upon the earth; fornication, uncleanness, inordinate affection, evil concupiscence, and covetousness, which is idolatry:

**2 Peter 3:3** (Parallel theme): Knowing this first, that there shall come in the last days scoffers, walking after their own lusts,

**James 4:3** (Parallel theme): Ye ask, and receive not, because ye ask amiss, that ye may consume it upon your lusts.

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