

Apply The Word

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Message Info

Title:

He Gives More Grace

Speaker:

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Date:

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Scriptures:

James 4:1-10

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Theme: There is more grace in God than sin in us.

Introduction: James addresses many provocative questions throughout his epistle. Here, he addresses the question of fights and quarrels. Conflict is a very common part of our experience in life; and as we understand God's perspective on conflict and how his grace applies, we can grow by his grace, both to reduce and to resolve conflict.

James highlights 3 aspects of dealing with conflicts in a God-honoring way:

1. The Cause of Conflicts

Conflict arises from passions warring within us. Often, it's from good things that we want *too much*.

We can almost always justify our conflicts and anger in our own minds; but we have to recognize our cravings if we're going to respond rightly.

Our true problem is idolatry. We don't trust God—so we try to get what we want on our own.

So, what do you want?

2. The Promise of Grace

This is our hope and comfort: the surprising grace of God.

God works through our conflicts to rescue us. He redeems *sinners*.

So, where do you need more grace?

3. The Requirement of Humility

Humility orients us to the Lord, and allows us to think and act in faith.

Humility is submission to God, grounded in and demonstrating our trust in him.

We must recognize our weakness, our need for God's grace, and how his grace is available and active in our lives.

So, are you resisting temptation or resting in it? Are you drawing near to God or avoiding him?

Questions:

1. Are you accustomed to identifying the cravings behind your conflicts, or is this a new category for you?

2. What unresolved conflicts are in your life now? Do you see any sinful patterns?

3. How does the gospel free you to resolve conflicts? How does it motivate you to draw near to God?