

HOW TO AVOID ARGUMENTS

James series:
Developing a Faith That Works
James 4:1-10

I. THE CAUSE OF ARGUMENTS: Conflicting desires

"What causes fights and quarrels among you? Don't they come from your desires that battle within you?" vs 1

THREE NATURAL DESIRES

* The Desire to control

"You want but do not have... so you fight" vs 2

* The Desire to consume

"you ask...that you may spend" vs 3

*The Desire to cheat

—“...friendship with the world is spiritual adultery” vs 4

II. THE CURE FOR ARGUMENTS: Humility

“ God is opposed to the proud, but gives grace to the humble” vs 6

Steps to Defusing Conflict

1. Settle who is in charge

"Submit yourselves then to God ..." vs. 7

"Let the peace of Christ rule in your heart." Col 3:15

2. Stop giving the enemy a landing strip

"Resist the devil, and he will flee from you." vs.7

*"In order that Satan might not outwit us, we are not unaware of his schemes." 2 Cor.
2:11*

3. Start walking with God

"Come near to God and He will come near to you." vs. 8

*"He will keep in perfect peace all those who trust in Him, whose thoughts turn to the
Lord." Isaiah 26:3*

4. Seek to a life of forgiveness

"Wash your hands ... purify your hearts ..." vs 8

" Be miserable ...let your joy turn into gloom" vs 9

"Do not speak against one another" vs 10