



FIVE LIES THAT RUIN
RELATIONSHIPS

WRONG BELIEFS PRODUCE WRONG BEHAVIOR

CHIP INGRAM

SESSION 1: WHY WE FIGHT WITH THOSE WE LOVE

JAMES 4:1-3

At 5:10 a.m. on April 18, 1906 fish mongers set out for the daily catch. Boats left the docks. Farmers slipped on boots and stepped into the chill. Two minutes later, the ground shook for 45 seconds and fractured destinies forever. The Great Earthquake leveled the city of San Francisco. 28,000 buildings were destroyed. Over 3,000 people died. Out of a population of 400,000, 225,000 were left homeless. Damages from the quake and resulting fires reached over 400 million dollars.

Perched on the Bay surrounded by undulating green hills, San Francisco may be one of the most beautiful spots on the planet. As bricks turned into buildings; as dreams turned into businesses; as houses turned into homes; and as architectural plans turned into city streets; no one imagined that underneath the pristine landscape sat a deadly fault line.

Every relationship we enter starts with beautiful intentions. Brides kiss grooms without a thought of divorce. Friends shake hands on a business deal with iron-clad resolve. Churches start with no intention of splitting. No one imagines that underneath the pristine landscape of our relationships sits a fault line. And when the quake hits, we all feel the damage.

What happens when the marriage goes from better to worse? What happens when the dream turns into a nightmare? What happens when the congregation looks like a partisan Congress? What happens when our love turns to loathing and our caring into conflict?

Chip kicks off this series with a surgical look into the heart of conflict. Why do we fight with those we love? Conflict is inevitable in this fallen world. Fortunately the Bible tells us the source of conflict is very predictable. Let's jump into the book of James and discover the fault line beneath all our relationships.

VIDEO NOTES:

LIE 1: "SENSUAL PLEASURE WILL SATISFY MY INNER LONGINGS FOR HAPPINESS."

*What is the source of quarrels and conflicts among you? Is not the source your pleasures that wage war in your members? You lust and do not have; so you commit murder. You are envious and cannot obtain; so you fight and quarrel. You do not have because you do not ask. You ask and do not receive, because you ask with wrong motives, so that you may spend it on your pleasures. **JAMES 4: 1-3** (NASB)*

THE CAUSE: The root cause of interpersonal conflicts is our consuming passion for _____.

-|- **OUR PROBLEM =**

-|- **THE SYMPTOMS =**

-|- **OUR STRATEGY =**

-|- **THE RESULTS =**

VIDEO NOTES (CONTINUED)

GOD'S DIAGNOSIS: Our constant quarrels reveal . . .

You adulteresses, do you not know that friendship with the world is hostility toward God? Therefore whoever wishes to be a friend of the world makes himself an enemy of God. Or do you think that the Scripture speaks to no purpose: "He jealously desires the Spirit which He has made to dwell in us"? But He gives a greater grace Therefore it says, "GOD IS OPPOSED TO THE PROUD, BUT GIVES GRACE TO THE HUMBLE." JAMES 4: 4-6 (NASB)

-|- WE'VE BELIEVED A LIE.

-|- WE'VE BETRAYED A TRUST .

-|- WE'VE BECOME AN ENEMY .

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

1. Have the courage to answer the first question Chip asked. On a scale of 1 to 10, with 1 being a “perfect saint” and 10 being a “spiritual adulterer,” where is your Christian walk in relation to the world? Why?
2. How did the first story Chip told about the divorce strike you? What did you feel? Did it remind you of a conflict you have gone through?
3. What is at the core of all our conflict?
4. Depending on how comfortable you are in the group, explain how your own selfishness has led to conflict in your own life.
5. What are some ways you have fallen in the trap of believing the world’s system?

SESSION 1: KEYS

**CONFLICT WITH
LOVED ONES IS
AN INEVITABLE
PART OF LIFE**

**THE SOURCE OF
OUR CONFLICT
RESIDES IN OUR
OWN SELFISHNESS**

“It would seem that Our Lord finds our desires not too strong, but too weak. We are half-hearted creatures, fooling about with drink and sex and ambition when infinite joy is offered us, like an ignorant child who wants to go on making mud pies in a slum because he cannot imagine what is meant by the offer of a holiday at the sea. We are far too easily pleased.”

C.S. LEWIS

ACTION STEPS:

Time to get real practical and real transparent. This study can't just be an intellectual exercise. We must bridge the distance between our head and heart.

Are there any unresolved conflicts in your life right now?

As easy as it would be to write down how those conflicts have hurt you, what part has your desire for self-gratification created enmity?

Write their names down and begin to pray that God will give you the courage and the tools to reconcile those relationships. Chances are it won't be easy and next week we will learn about God's prescription for healing .

AT HOME:

Few of us like to hear that we may be an “enemy of God.” However, when bitterness and anger seep into our horizontal relationships, it affects our vertical relationship with our Father in heaven. Chip mentioned that when we live worldly, God puts us in a “velvet vice.” God squeezes our hearts to produce character. Take a few moments to read Hebrews 12:4-11.

“You have not yet resisted to the point of shedding blood in your striving against sin; and you have forgotten the exhortation which is addressed to you as sons, ‘My son, do not regard lightly the discipline of the Lord, nor faint when you are reprov ed by Him; for those whom the Lord loves He disciplines, and He scourges every son whom He receives.’ It is for discipline that you endure; God deals with you as with sons; for what son is there whom his father does not discipline? But if you are without discipline, of which all have become partakers, then you are illegitimate children and not sons. Furthermore, we had earthly fathers to discipline us, and we respected them; shall we not much rather be subject to the Father of spirits, and live? For they disciplined us for a short time as seemed best to them, but He disciplines us for our good, so that we may share His holiness. All discipline for the moment seems not to be joyful, but sorrowful; yet to those who have been trained by it, afterwards it yields the peaceful fruit of righteousness.”

As you meditate on these verses, write down some thoughts to these questions:

- |- What does God’s discipline prove about our relationship with Him?

- |- What does God’s discipline produce in our life?

- |- How have you experienced God’s discipline in your life?

MEMORY VERSE: JAMES 4:1-3 (NASB)

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