

- **Passage: James 4:1-9**

- **¹What causes fights and quarrels among you? Don't they come from your desires that battle within you? ²You desire but do not have, so you kill. You covet but you cannot get what you want, so you quarrel and fight. You do not have because you do not ask God. ³When you ask, you do not receive, because you ask with wrong motives, that you may spend what you get on your pleasures. ⁴You adulterous people don't you know that friendship with the world means enmity against God? Therefore, anyone who chooses to be a friend of the world becomes an enemy of God. ⁵Or do you think Scripture says without reason that he jealously longs for the spirit he has caused to dwell in us^[b]? ⁶But he gives us more grace. That is why Scripture says: "God opposes the proud but shows favor to the humble."^[c] ⁷Submit yourselves, then, to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you.⁸ Come near to God and he will come near to you. Wash your hands, you sinners, and purify your hearts, you double-minded. ⁹Grieve, mourn and wail. Change your laughter to mourning and your joy to gloom. ¹⁰Humble yourselves before the Lord, and he will lift you up.**

- **Opening:**

- Title of this section is called "submitting yourselves to God"
- Want to focus on verses 7-10
- Context: Talking about issues within the church, between believers, divisiveness in the church, disunity
 - This is what the enemy wants - for there to be problems within the Church, our church, student ministry
 - **Question: What are some basic examples of disunity in the church?**
 - **Based on this passage, what are the reasons we have issues/disunity? Verses 2-7**

- **⁷ Submit yourselves, then, to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you.**

- To prevent these things:
 - Submit to God
 - Walk by the Spirit & not by the flesh
 - Lot of things you can submit to
 - **Means OBEY**
 - Who are you being obedient to? Being a servant to?
 - So often: seek to serve our flesh
 - **Enemy has the world believing that serving your flesh is what you were created to do**
 - **Question: Talk about what it looks like to obey God daily. What are some ways you submit to your flesh instead of God?**
 - Resist the devil (Satan)
 - The more you resist the more he'll leave you alone.

- Satan is going to attack the weak and vulnerable.
 - Fight the things he talked about above
 - Devil attacks in our flesh, but we fight by the Spirit
 - **Question: Talk about some ways you can practically “fight” the Devil & the things he uses against you.**
- **⁸ Come near to God and he will come near to you. Wash your hands, you sinners, and purify your hearts, you double-minded.**
 - **Question: Talk about these verses at your table.**
 - **Two things:**
 - Your spiritual position: must allow the Holy Spirit to draw you close to him & HE WILL DRAW NEAR.
 - **Question: What do you think it practically looks like for God to draw near to you?**
 - **Near in PLACE & TIME**
 - In order to draw near, must repent and come with clean heart.
 - Verse 9 & 10 tells us how to do that.
- **⁹ Grieve, mourn and wail. Change your laughter to mourning and your joy to gloom. ¹⁰ Humble yourselves before the Lord, and he will lift you up.**
 - Change your mindset - be remorseful & sorry for your sin
 - Your attitude matters - think about the b-attitudes
 - **That will HUMBLE YOU**
 - **Question: Back to the beginning - what does humility have to do with unity in the church? Talk about those two things.**