

James 4:1-3
*"Fights Within & Without"**

Introduction: An intramural debate in the area of anthropology

- **The dichotomist:** insists that man is made up of two parts, one that is visible and one that is invisible.
- **The trichotomist:** insists that man is made up of three parts, one that is visible and two that are invisible.
- **Reformed theologians:** recognize that the words 'soul' and 'spirit' are frequently used interchangeably in Scripture.
- **The new creation in Christ Jesus:** Referred to in Scripture as 'the new man.'

Much of the conflict within the _____ of _____ is traceable to the believer's own _____ with his or her _____.

- **The language used by James to describe quarrels and fights:** Military language.
- **A big difference:** Contending for the faith out of holy desires, and being a contentious person who acts out of sinful desires.
- **William Gurnall (on the call of God to His people):** "Soul, take the lust which is the child dearest to your heart, your Isaac, the sin from which you intend to gain the greatest pleasure. Lay hand on it and

offer it up; pour out its blood before Me; run the sacrificing knife into the very heart of it - and do it joyfully."

- **A possibility that must be considered:** You are the greatest reason for a conflict with a fellow believer.
- **The "murder" that James speaks of:** Likely an echo of Jesus' teaching in the Sermon on the Mount with regard to unjustified anger.
- **A particularly heinous sin in the sight of God:** When Christians are guilty of mental malice against other Christians.
- **Thomas Watson (on discontent):** "Discontent is to the soul as a disease is to the body: it puts it out of temper and much hinders its regular and sublime motions heavenward."
- **One great hindrance to prayer:** Asking God for things out of wrong motives.
- Personal Application:

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