

**Communication determines the level of your relationships.**

Conflict is **inevitable**.

Text: **James 1:19-20 (NLT)**

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### **The Book of James**

**Author:** James the half-brother of Jesus, who by Acts 15 was in charge of the church in Jerusalem.

**When:** The book of James is one of the earliest books in the New Testament, dated between AD 44 and 50 (within ten to fifteen years of Jesus's resurrection).

**Audience:** Jewish Christians who were forced to leave Jerusalem during the persecution that followed Stephen's death.

**Purpose:** These Jewish Christians, scattered throughout the area east of the Mediterranean Sea, no longer had contact with the apostles. The religion of some was becoming a superficial formality; discriminatory practices revealed a lack of love and bitterness in speech and attitude marred their fellowship.

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### **James 1:19-20 (NLT)**

#### **Context: What was the conflict about?**

Over a century before this time, the Roman general, Pompey, had cut Judean territory and made many Jewish peasants landless; the exorbitant taxes of Herod the Great must have driven more small farmers out of business. In the first century, many peasants worked as tenants on larger, feudal estates; others became landless day laborers in the marketplaces, finding work only sporadically. Resentment against rich landlords ran high in many parts of the empire. James addresses especially Jewish Christians caught up in the sort of social tensions that eventually produced the war of AD 66-70

**You will never show love and kindness to someone by winning an argument.**

#### **.01 Stop and listen.**

- Listening is hard because it is an act of humility.
- Communication isn't the ability to be heard. It's the ability to be understood.

#### **.02 Guard your words.**

- Truth without grace is mean.
- Grace without truth is meaningless.

#### **R4**

RIGHT TIME | RIGHT PLACE | RIGHT ATTITUDE | RIGHT PERSON

#### **.03 Control your anger.**

- If you don't learn to control your anger, it will always control you.
- Focus on the positive instead of the triggers that make you angry.
- When you've blown it, make it right.

It's time to STOP FIGHTING AGAINST ONE ANOTHER and START FIGHTING FOR ONE ANOTHER!

#### **Discussion Questions** (*War of Words*, Paul Tripp)

1. Are there places where your words challenge the authority of God? (Seeking to take wrongful control, speaking words of condemnation, punishing others with words)
2. Has your communication been infected with Satan's lie that the things you need for life can be found outside of Christ? Examples:
  - "I must win this argument."
  - "I will get him to admit if it's the last thing I do!"

#### **Recommended Books**

*War of Words* by Paul Tripp

*A Small Book about a Big Problem* by Edward T Welch

*Everybody's Normal Till You Get to Know Them* by John Ortberg

#### **Resources Used**

*The Bible from 30,000 Feet* by Skip Heitzig

*The Expositor's Bible Commentary*

*The IVP Bible Background Commentary*