

*Wisdom for Living*  
**The Cure for Arguing**

**I. Introduction**

- A. James 4:1 (NAS) *What is the source of quarrels and conflicts among you? Is not the source your pleasures that wage war in your members?*

**II. Desires that Cause Conflict**

- A. The desire to have

1. James 4:2a (NAS) *You lust and do not have; so you commit murder.*

- B. The desire for pleasure

1. James 4:3 (NAS) *You ask and do not receive, because you ask with wrong motives, so that you may spend it on your pleasures.*
2. I Timothy 6:17 (NAS) *Instruct those who are rich in this present world not to be conceited or to fix their hope on the uncertainty of riches, but on God, who richly supplies us with all things to enjoy.*

- C. The desire for prominence

1. Proverbs 16:18 (NAS) *Pride goes before destruction, and a haughty spirit before stumbling.*
2. Proverbs 29:23 (NAS) *A man's pride will bring him low, but a humble spirit will obtain honor.*

**III. The Cure for Arguing**

- A. Humble yourself

1. James 4:6 (NAS) *But He gives a greater grace. Therefore it says, "GOD IS OPPOSED TO THE PROUD, BUT GIVES GRACE TO THE HUMBLE."*

**IV. How to Diffuse Conflict**

- A. Submit yourself to God

1. James 4:7 (NAS) *Submit therefore to God. Resist the devil and he will flee from you.*
2. Colossians 3:15 (NAS) *Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in one body; and be thankful.*

B. Resist the devil

1. James 4:7 (NAS) *Submit therefore to God. Resist the devil and he will flee from you.*
2. John 10:10a (NAS) *"The thief comes to steal, kill and destroy."*
3. Proverbs 15:1 (NAS) *A gentle answer turns away wrath, but a harsh word stirs up anger.*

C. Draw near to God

1. James 4:8a (NAS) *Draw near to God and He will draw near to you.*

D. Be willing to ask for forgiveness

1. James 4:8b (NAS) *Cleanse your hands, you sinners; and purify your hearts, you double-minded.*
2. James 4:10 (NAS) *Humble yourselves in the presence of the Lord, and He will exalt you.*
3. Philippians 2:3-5 (NAS) *<sup>3</sup>Do nothing from selfishness or empty conceit, but with humility of mind regard one another as more important than yourselves; <sup>4</sup>do not merely look out for your own personal interests, but also for the interests of others. <sup>5</sup>Have this attitude in yourselves which was also in Christ Jesus.*

**V. Conclusion**