

# THE CURE FOR WARS, WORDLINESS & PRIDE

JAMES 4:1-12

FAITH

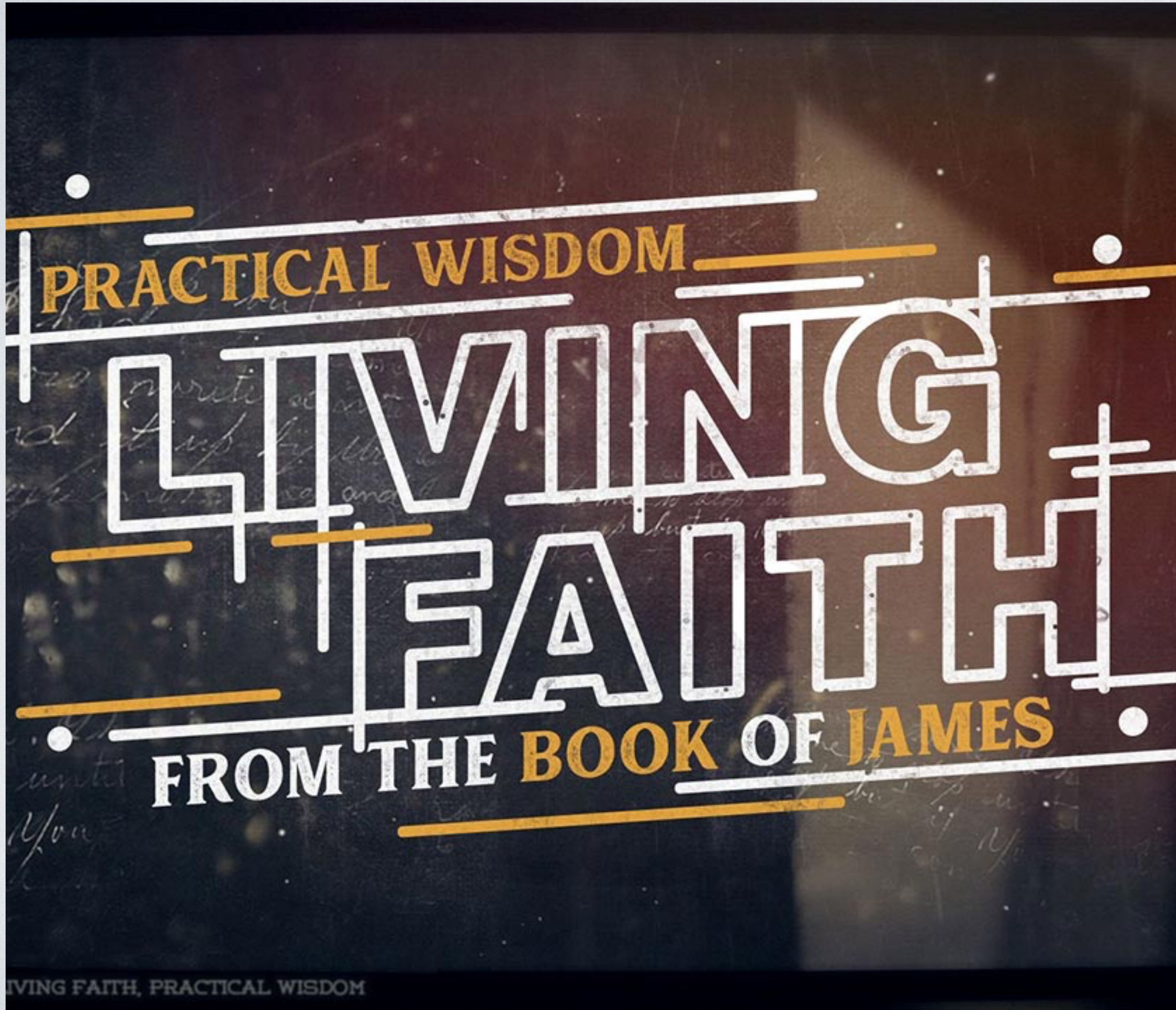
WORKS

THE BOOK OF JAMES

<sup>13</sup> Who *is* wise and understanding among you? Let him show by good conduct *that* his works *are done* in the meekness of wisdom.— James 3:13 (NKJV)

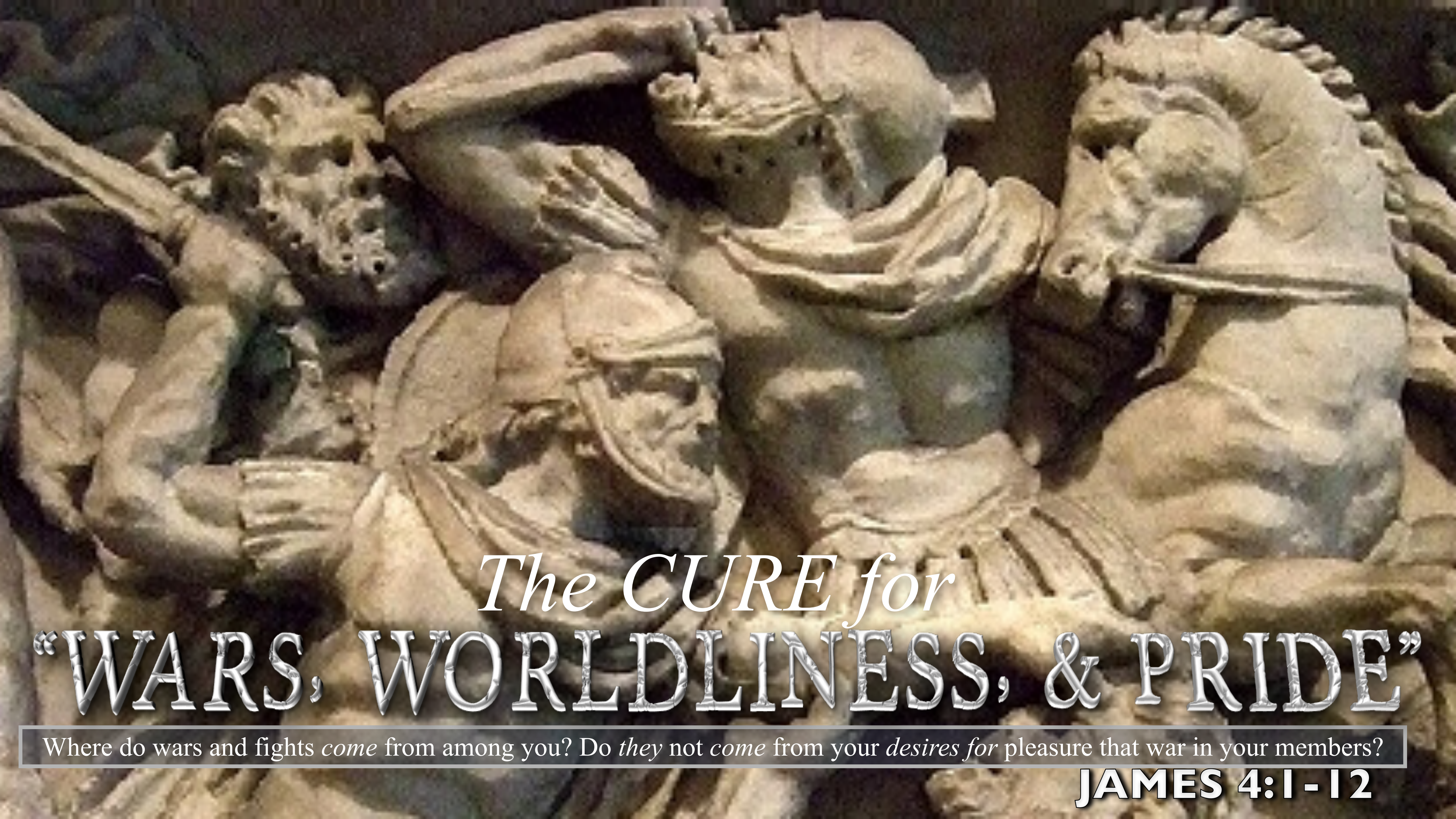


# INTRODUCTION: LIVING FAITH / PRACTICAL WISDOM



- **TRIALS** (1:2-12)
- **TEMPTATION** (1:13-16)
- WE MUST BE **DOERS OF THE WORD** - (1:17-27)
- THE SIN OF **PARTIALITY** (2:1-13)
- SAVING FAITH IS AN **OBEDIENT FAITH** — (2:14-26)
- POWER OF **THE TONGUE** (3:1-12)
- **TWO KINDS OF WISDOM** (3:13-18)





*The CURE for*  
“WARS, WORLDLINESS, & PRIDE”

Where do wars and fights *come* from among you? Do *they* not *come* from your *desires* for pleasure that war in your members?

**JAMES 4:1-12**



# “WARS, WORLDLINESS, & PRIDE”

*The CURE for Evil Hearts Among Believers*

## TWO KINDS OF WISDOM / TWO KINDS OF FRUIT

### FROM EARTH

JAMES 3:13-18

### FROM ABOVE

**ENVY**

**SELFISH**

**CONFUSION**

**SENSUALITY**

**EVIL**

**PURE / PEACEABLE**

**GENTLE / WILLING TO YIELD**

**MERCIFUL / GOOD FRUITS**

**IMPARTIALITY / SINCERE**

**PEACE**



# James 4:1–12 (NKJV)

<sup>1</sup> Where do wars and fights *come* from among you? Do *they* not *come* from your *desires for* pleasure that war in your members? <sup>2</sup> You lust and do not have. You murder and covet and cannot obtain. You fight and war. Yet you do not have because you do not ask. <sup>3</sup> You ask and do not receive, because you ask amiss, that you may spend *it* on your pleasures. <sup>4</sup> Adulterers and adulteresses! Do you not know that friendship with the world is enmity with God?

Whoever therefore wants to be a friend of the world makes himself an enemy of God.



## James 4:1–12 (NKJV)

<sup>5</sup> Or do you think that the Scripture says in vain, “The Spirit who dwells in us yearns jealously”? <sup>6</sup> But He gives more grace. Therefore He says: “*God resists the proud, But gives grace to the humble.*” <sup>7</sup> Therefore submit to God. Resist the devil and he will flee from you. <sup>8</sup> Draw near to God and He will draw near to you. Cleanse *your* hands, *you* sinners; and purify *your* hearts, *you* double-minded. <sup>9</sup> Lament and mourn and weep! Let your laughter be turned to mourning and *your* joy to gloom.



## **James 4:1–12 (NKJV)**

<sup>10</sup> Humble yourselves in the sight of the Lord, and He will lift you up. <sup>11</sup> Do not speak evil of one another, brethren. He who speaks evil of a brother and judges his brother, speaks evil of the law and judges the law. But if you judge the law, you are not a doer of the law but a judge. <sup>12</sup> There is one Lawgiver, who is able to save and to destroy. Who are you to judge another?



# "WARS, WORLDLINESS, & GOD'S WILL"

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## ■ James 4 is the outgrowth of Chapter 3

- ▶ There has always been problems within the church because of worldly wisdom.
- ▶ The results of worldliness infecting the church is tragic!
- ▶ In our text James describes three different wars -





# "WARS, WORLDLINESS, & GOD'S WILL"

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■ **In our text James describes three different wars -**

- ▶ Fighting with others (1:1,11,12)
- ▶ Fighting against ourselves (2-3)
- ▶ Fighting against God (4-6)

■ **How can we put an end to all the fighting (7-12)**





# "WARS, WORLDLINESS, & GOD'S WILL"

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WAR WITH EACH OTHER (1, 11-12)

## **James 4:1 (NKJV)**

<sup>1</sup> Where do wars  
and fights *come*  
from among you?  
Do *they* not *come*  
from your *desires*  
*for* pleasure that war  
in your members?

- "Brethren" ought to live together in love and harmony - (Psalm 133:1 -Behold, how good and how pleasant it is For brethren to dwell together in unity!)
- Yet often they do not [War and fighting is the opposite of the peace spoken of in 3:18] (1 Cor. 1:10-13; 3:1-4; Rom 12:18)



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- Sometimes wars are necessary (1 Tim 1:18; Jude 1:3; 2 Cor. 10:3-5; Gal. 2:11; 5:10-15)
- Most wars among brethren are NOT necessary:
  - ▶ 1) Personality conflicts (Luke 6:12-16)
  - ▶ 2) Over matters of liberty (Rom. 14)
  - ▶ 3) Misunderstandings / personal opinions



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<sup>1</sup> Where do wars and fights *come* from among you? Do *they* not *come* from your *desires* for pleasure that war in your members?

- We should be united in fighting against the evil one, and not against each other over matters of liberty or opinion because of bad attitudes!
- No army can be victorious when it turns away from being loyal to their state and King and fight each other (Gal 5:15; Ex. 13:17; Mat 23:13; Luke 11:52; Mark 3:24)



# “WARS, WORLDLINESS, & GOD'S WILL”

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## WAR AGAINST OURSELVES (1-3)

### **James 4:2–3 (NKJV)**

<sup>2</sup> You lust and do not have. You murder and covet and cannot obtain. You fight and war. Yet you do not have because you do not ask. <sup>3</sup> You ask and do not receive, because you ask amiss, that you may spend *it* on your pleasures.

- The source, or root cause of infighting is pride, selfishness, and worldly wisdom, (3:14-16), leading to:
  - ▶ “you lust . . .” - 1 Tim 6:9,10
  - ▶ “you murder . . .” - 1 Jn 3:15
  - ▶ “you fight and war . . .” - 2 Cor 12:20
  - ▶ “Failure to pray or selfish prayer



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- Some brethren had failed to conquer their flesh [losing their inward war] (Gal. 5:16; 1 Pet. 2:11; Col 3:5)
- When we are guided by earthly wisdom - the results are inevitable - We cause contention and strife - conflict and guilt within our own minds - (losing inward peace) - We become enemies of God!



# "WARS, WORLDLINESS, & GOD'S WILL"

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## WAR AGAINST GOD (4,5)

### **James 4:4 (NKJV)**

<sup>4</sup> Adulterers and adulteresses! Do you not know that friendship with the world is enmity with God? Whoever therefore wants to be a friend of the world makes himself an enemy of God.

- If we ARE all truly at peace with God - how would that effect our relationship with one another?
- If we claim to be at peace with God, and claim to stand with God, how can we be friends with His enemy, aide and abet His enemy, and not be a traitor?



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### **We MAKE OURSELVES enemies of God by:**

- ▶ Being defiled by the world (James 1:27)
- ▶ Loving the world (1 Jn 2:15-17)
- ▶ Setting our affections on things of the world (Col. 3:1-3)
- ▶ Actively hindering and destroying the influence of the gospel (Mark 9:50)



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### **ARE WE FRIENDS OF GOD OR ENEMIES?**

- ▶ Worldly friends (1 Cor. 15:33)
- ▶ Worldly habits (1 Cor. 15:33; 2 Pet 2:19)
- ▶ Worldly assimilation (1 Pt 4:2-4; Ro 12:1,2)
- ▶ Worldly support (1 John 2:15-17)
- ▶ Worldly desires (Prov 27:20; Ecc. 5:10)
- ▶ Double minded (Jas. 1:6,7; Matt. 6:24; ).



# “WARS, WORLDLINESS, & GOD'S WILL”

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## WAR AGAINST GOD (4,5)

### **James 4:5–6 (NKJV)**

<sup>5</sup> Or do you think that the Scripture says in vain, “The Spirit who dwells in us yearns jealously”? <sup>6</sup> But He gives more grace. Therefore He says: “*God resists the proud, But gives grace to the humble.*”

- This is one of the most difficult verses to translate in the entire letter.
- Is the “spirit” the Holy Spirit or the human spirit? - Is the spirit to be taken as the subject of the verb “yearns” or as its object? - Is “envy” an “unrighteous desire” or a “righteous yearning”?



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- The root-idea of the passage is identical with that of the jealousy of God over Israel as his spiritual bride (Jer. 3:1-11; Ezek. 16; Hos. 2:3)
- God demanded their full loyalty and faithfulness to him (Gen. 6:3-7; Ex. 20:5; Deut. 32:11,12,16,19, 21 (cf. 1 Cor. 10:22); Ex. 34:14,15; Isa. 63:8-16; Zec. 8:2)



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- God is a jealous God, demands obedience, and He resists the proud (Prov 3:37; 1 Pet 5:5; Mat 23:12; Lk 18:14)
- Pride is a form of “friendship with the world” which creates an atmosphere of hostility toward God, since it defies his will and despises his purpose (Rom. 1:18-32)



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■ Even so, God's favor, friendship and wisdom are bestowed generously to all who humble themselves (1:5,6)



# “WARS, WORLDLINESS, & GOD'S WILL”

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## THE PATH TO PEACE (6-10)

**James 4:7  
(NKJV)**

**7 Therefore  
submit to God.  
Resist the devil  
and he will flee  
from you.**

- Even so, God's favor, friendship and wisdom are bestowed generously to all who humble themselves (1:5,6)
- ▶ God saves only those who humbly submit to His will, obeying Him by faith (Mat 7:21-23; Heb 5:8,9)
- ▶ Unconditional and complete surrender to God is the only way to victory!



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**(NKJV)**

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### **Resist The Devil (7)**

- ▶ He is behind every war that we have (1 Pet 5:8; Mat 13:39; John 8:44; 1 John 3:8-10)
- ▶ The devil can be resisted, then he will flee! (Eph 4:27; 1 Pet 5:8,9; Eph 6:10-18; 1 Cor. 10:13)



# "WARS, WORLDLINESS, & GOD'S WILL"

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## THE PATH TO PEACE (6-10)

**James 4:8 (NKJV)**

<sup>8</sup> Draw near to God and He will draw near to you. Cleanse *your* hands, *you* sinners; and purify *your* hearts, *you* double-minded.

 **How do we draw near to God?**

- ▶ "Cleanse your hands" - i.e., Get your sins forgiven and do what's right! (Acts 2:38; 8:22; 1 John 1:9)
- ▶ "Purify your hearts" - Be single-minded in your devotion to God! (not double-minded, like a spiritual adulterer)



# “WARS, WORLDLINESS, & GOD'S WILL”

*The CURE for Evil Hearts Among Believers*

## THE PATH TO PEACE (6-10)

### **James 4:9–10 (NKJV)**

<sup>9</sup> Lament and mourn and weep! Let your laughter be turned to mourning and *your* joy to gloom. <sup>10</sup> Humble yourselves in the sight of the Lord, and He will lift you up.

### **Humble Yourselves Before God (9-10)**

- ▶ Sin is no laughing matter! (Mat 5:29,30; Mark 9:43-48)
- ▶ True repentance is required - i.e., we need to see sin in all of its ugliness and turn away from it - flee from it - and mourn over what it has done to ourselves and others (Mat 5:3-6)



# "WARS, WORLDLINESS, & GOD'S WILL"

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- Wars without come from wars within.
- In all of these matters sincere faith and its calmative and harmonious fruits are contrasted with selfish unbelief and its harmful and destructive fruit.



# "WARS, WORLDLINESS, & GOD'S WILL"

*The CURE for Evil Hearts Among Believers*



**If We Are At Peace  
With God ...  
We Will Be At Peace  
With Ourselves!  
We Will Be At Peace  
With One Another!**



# "WARS, WORLDLINESS, & GOD'S WILL"

*The CURE for Evil Hearts Among Believers*

■ **Submit to God, He will draw near to us, cleanse us, and forgive us!**

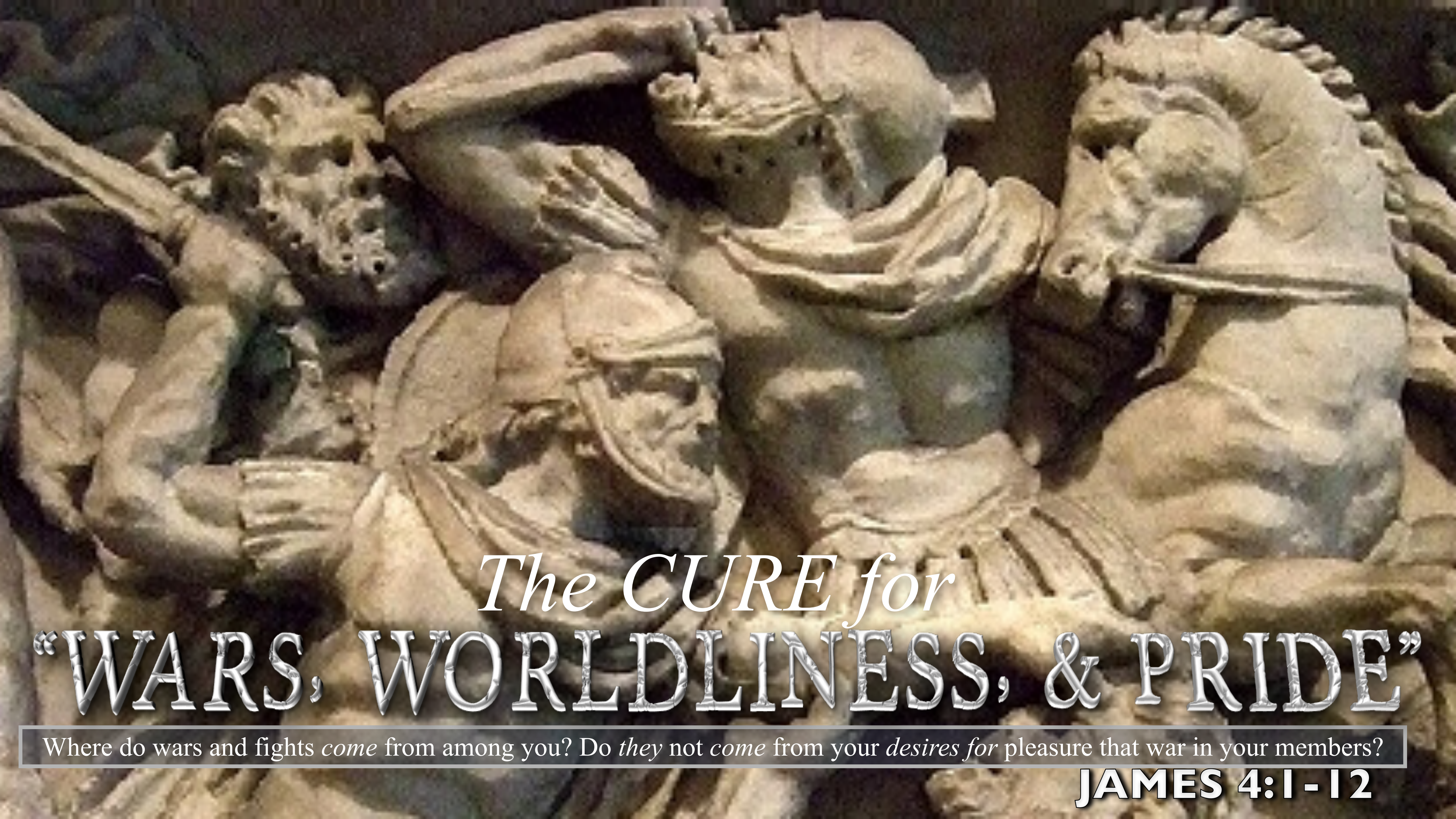
- ▶ Submit To God (7)
- ▶ Resist The Devil (7)
- ▶ Draw Near To God, "Cleanse your hands" - "Purify your hearts" (8; Acts 2:38)
- ▶ Humble Yourself In The Sight Of God (9-10; Rom. 6:3-19; 1 Peter 5:5-11)











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**JAMES 4:1-12**



# Colossians 3:5–14 (NKJV)

<sup>5</sup> Therefore put to death your members which are on the earth: fornication, uncleanness, passion, evil desire, and covetousness, which is idolatry. <sup>6</sup> Because of these things the wrath of God is coming upon the sons of disobedience, <sup>7</sup> in which you yourselves once walked when you lived in them. <sup>8</sup> But now you yourselves are to put off all these: anger, wrath, malice, blasphemy, filthy language out of your mouth. <sup>9</sup> Do not lie to one another, since you have put off the old man with his deeds,



# Colossians 3:5–14 (NKJV)

<sup>10</sup> and have put on the new *man* who is renewed in knowledge according to the image of Him who created him, <sup>11</sup> where there is neither Greek nor Jew, circumcised nor uncircumcised, barbarian, Scythian, slave *nor* free, but Christ *is* all and in all. <sup>12</sup> Therefore, as *the* elect of God, holy and beloved, put on tender mercies, kindness, humility, meekness, longsuffering; <sup>13</sup> bearing with one another, and forgiving one another, if anyone has a complaint against another; even as Christ forgave you, so you also *must do*. <sup>14</sup> But above all these things put on love, which is the bond of perfection.