

“What is the source of quarrels and conflicts among you? Is not the source your pleasures that wage war in your members?”
James 4:1

Me, Myself, & I

An Introduction: One Another – James 4:1

Have you ever heard this jingle?

“I love me, I love me, I'm wild about myself.
I love me, I love me, my picture's on my shelf.
You may not think I look so good, but me thinks I'm divine.
It's grand when I look in my eyes and know I'm mine, all mine!”¹

As the story goes, Jack Hoins, the original writer, was enjoying a performance. The entertainer was speaking very highly of himself and Jack took it upon himself to write a song about the performer's ego. He sent it up to stage by way of a waiter and the performer sung the song. Everybody had a laugh and the song was eventually recorded.

Most of us would have joined in the laughter if we had been there. The song is funny, but in some part true of all of us. Even the most humble heart is not completely rid of self-centeredness. It is a disease that secretly attacks our hearts while convincing our minds that everything is good. Before we know it, this disease has convinced us that the world, for some the universe, revolves around us.

Think I am wrong? Go ahead and take a drive to Wal-Mart and get your groceries for the week. Count the number of people who consider themselves more than others: the people who pull out in front of you, the people who leave their carts in the parking lot, the people who stop in the aisle and no matter how many times you say, “Excuse me,” they do not hear you.

You may say, “But they just don't realize what they are doing.” I agree they do not. They are wrapped up in their own little world. They are not paying attention.

How often do you find people who are in their own little world? How do you respond?

Here is the kicker, I sometimes (okay – often) get angry because they are not thinking of others. I ask myself, “Don't they realize that I am waiting to get by them?” Of course, I neglect to see that I want them to adjust their world to my world. I am being self-centered.

James tells us the reason why we cannot get along. Read James 4:1 and write down the reason.

¹ Hoins, Jack and Will Mahoney. “I Love Me.” Lyrics. Perf. Tiny Tim. [I Love Me](http://www.alligatorboogaloo.com/uke/tabs/070127.html). Seeland, 1995. 2 July 2, 2007. <<http://www.alligatorboogaloo.com/uke/tabs/070127.html>>

You may not have needed all the space because it can be summed up in one word. Self.

So I come back the fact that it is a disease, but there is a cure. Praise God there is a cure. The cure is the cross. Paul explains that we are crucified with Christ. The self must die.

When a sinner recognizes his need for a Savior, he is made into a new creation and given the power through the Spirit to live a victorious life.

As we live this new life we need heavy doses of “one anothers” in order to keep self at a distance.

God gives us a number of passages that call us to practice “other” thinking. These passages, when practiced, will aid us in becoming more like Christ. It is not easy, because it flies in the face of all that society claims. It will turn heads and warm hearts.

It has the potential to change the world because:

“A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another, even as I have loved you, that you also love one another. By this all men will know that you are My disciples, if you have love for one another” (John 13:34-35).

Practicing the “one anothers” will reach into eternity; so let’s get to work.

What do you need to do in response to this lesson?

