



### **Introduction:**

- Let me just ask you a straight-up question: Why are so many churches filled with animosity, bitterness, and conflict? Why is it sometimes so difficult to love members of one's own church?
- James, the half-brother of Jesus, writing to first century believers, gives us the answer to this question:

#### **The Causes and Extent of Conflict (James 4:1-4)**

*Quarrels –*

*Conflicts –*

#### **The Cause?**

*Is it not this, that your passions are at war within you? (v. 1b)*

*Passions –*

*Are at war within you –*

Even Philippi, as much as they were Paul's "joy and crown" had a couple of "thorns" in it. In Philippians 4, Paul starts with a general principle, then addresses a specific concern and closes with a personal request.

### **Principle**

*Stand firm thus in the Lord... (Philippians 4:1)*

### **Specific Concern**

*I entreat Euodia and I entreat Syntyche to agree in the Lord (v. 2).*

*Entreat...entreat*

*Agree in the Lord/Live in harmony in the Lord (NIV)*

### **Request**

*I ask you, true companion, help these women... (v. 3)*

*True companion*

*Help these women*

### **Conclusion:**

**Sources:** *Count it All Joy*, David Jeremiah; *Laugh Again*, Charles Swindoll; *Philippians For You*, Seven Lawson