

**THE ROOT OF OUR PROBLEM
GET SMART—PART 1
James 4:1-6**

Nothing matters more than relationships.

**The entire law is summed up in a single command: “Love your neighbor as yourself.”
Galatians 5:14 (NIV)**

Relationships are never easy because we’re all sinners.

**“For out of the overflow of the heart the mouth speaks.”
Matthew 12:34b (NIV)**

The cause of every relationship problem: self-centeredness

What causes fights and quarrels among you? Don’t they come from your desires that battle within you? You want something but don’t get it. You kill and covet, but you cannot have what you want. You quarrel and fight. You do not have, because you do not ask God. When you ask, you do not receive, because you ask with wrong motives, that you may spend what you get on your pleasures. You adulterous people, don’t you know that friendship with the world is hatred toward God? Anyone who chooses to be a friend of the world becomes an enemy of God. Or do you think Scripture says without reason that the spirit he caused to live in us envies intensely? But he gives us more grace. That is why Scripture says: “God opposes the proud but gives grace to the humble.” James 4:1-6 NIV

The key to better relationships: humility

Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit, but in humility consider others better than yourselves. Each of you should look not only to your own interests, but also to the interests of others. Philippians 2:3-4 (NIV)

I will experience better relationships when I put others first.