

A photograph showing two pairs of hands pulling on a thick, light-colored rope against a dark green background. The text 'DEALING WITH CONFLICT' is overlaid on the center of the image. 'DEALING WITH' is in red, and 'CONFLICT' is in white.

DEALING WITH  
CONFLICT

**fight** = prolonged/serious dispute or combat (often translated as “war”)

**quarrel** = specific attack or battle

\*Being used metaphorically to describe violent personal interaction

**“among you”**

- not truth or ideals (fight),  
but interpersonal relationships
- not referring to avoidance in order  
to prevent conflict

**“among you”**

- fighting is SOP to unbelievers,  
but it cannot be so among the  
**fellowship of the saved**

“Don’t they come from your desires  
which **BATTLE WITHIN** you? *(4:1)*”

THE CONFLICT WITH MYSELF CAUSES  
THE CONFLICTS WITH OTHERS

SPIRIT values giving of self... faith in God  
(*Gal. 5:22-26*)

FLESH values experiencing gratification...  
promotion of self (*11 Tim. 3:2-4*)

**hedonon** (vs. 1) [Eng. = hedonism]  
pleasures, senses, desires, passions



“Sensual” is often associated with “sexual.”  
It is much more. Literally “of the senses,”  
sensual describes any physical/emotional  
stimulus that gives pleasure. Power. Money.  
Food. Sex. Clothing. Possessions. Body  
alterations. Gambling. Thrills. Drugs.  
Danger. Sport. Entertainment. Conquest.  
ATTENTION. ACTION. ADDICTION. etc.,  
etc.

The desire to HAVE, EXPERIENCE, DO, SEE, TRY, TOUCH (flesh) often battles against the reality that the object of desire is UNHEALTHY, UNAVAILABLE, PROHIBITED, IMMORAL, or EXPLOITIVE.

**Delight vs. Desire** This is the “battle within you”

Therefore, live by the Spirit and you will not gratify the desires of the sinful nature [flesh]. For the Flesh desires what is contrary to the spirit and the spirit what is contrary to the flesh. They are in conflict with each other so that you do not do what you want.

*(Gal. 5:16-17)*

You kill and covet, quarrel and fight  
because you cannot have what you want.  
You do not have because you do not ask  
God. When you [do] ask, you do not  
receive because you ask with wrong  
motives, that you may spend what you  
get on your pleasures. (vs. 2-3)

## A BETTER WAY

1. Carefully consider your **motives** toward what you want.
2. **Ask God** for what you want.
3. When conflict emerges in getting what you want, seek godly **arbitration** or **self-denial**, rather than catastrophic/disastrous fight.