

lifeLines guide  
Homes Built on GRACE & TRUTH  
Who is man? Conflict Over Origin of Evil

**WORD**

(You are welcome to gather in groups of 3 or 4 for all or part of this discussion.)

*"The good impulses within people are easily warped by cultures. Sick people are made by a sick culture."* -Abraham Maslow

*"I see members of the human species like members of other species, as essentially constructive in their fundamental nature, but damaged by their experience."*

*"I do not find that evil is inherent in human nature."*

*"My experience leads me to believe that it is cultural influences which are the major factor in our evil behaviors."* -Carl Rodgers

**Read James 3:1-12**

What is James' point here?

How do his examples (bits and horses, tongues, fresh water and bitter water and springs, fig trees and olives and grapevines, salt water and fresh water) help make his point?

How does what James is declaring here differ from Maslow and Rodgers?

Why is the distinction important for us to understand? Why is this an important conversation?

**Read Matthew 15:10-20**

What does Jesus have to say about this topic?

Why do you think the Pharisees were upset by what Jesus was teaching? What is at stake for them in this topic?

Any connection you are seeing with the modern-day conflict?

Who are the players today? What's at stake today?

**PRAY**

Pray Psalm 32: 1-5

**LOVE**

Knowing that the people in your circle of influence are in the middle of this conflict over the origin of evil, how can you love them, serve them, and help them see the truth and grace inherent in this topic?

