

Are we Faithful to God? **James 4:4-6 (NKJV)**

4 Adulterers and adulteresses! Do you not know that friendship with the world is enmity with God? Whoever therefore wants to be a friend of the world makes himself an enemy of God.
5 Or do you think that the Scripture says in vain, "The Spirit who dwells in us yearns jealously"?
6 But He gives more grace. Therefore He says: "God resists the proud, But gives grace to the humble."

Worldliness doesn't seem to be that big of a deal in the Christian Church today.

Everyone has a house, car, big TV, maybe a boat, expensive electronics, thousands of dollars worth of phones over our lifetime.

Designer clothes, and handbags are on our lists. The amount of money we spend on things that are not basic needs would amaze us. Basic foods, clothing, shelter, etc.

But we never would consider ourselves worldly. Whatever that includes it does not apply to us.

Now compare our lives to those to whom James is writing and we start to slink away.

It is not really a matter of what you own but what is it that owns you.

Or as Jesus said, where your treasure is that is where your heart will be.

An immoderate love for the good things of the world, and a prevailing desire after the evil things of it, and a delight in the company and conversation of the men of the world, and a conformity to, and compliance with, the sinful manners and customs of the world, are so many declarations of war with God, and acts of hostility upon him; and show the enmity of the mind against him, and must be highly displeasing to him, and resented by him: *Gill*

I. Adulterers and adulteresses

A. That seems severe language doesn't it.

B. The idea comes from the Old Testament where Israel is called the wife of God.

1. But God accuses her of going after other gods (other lovers) and in a spiritual since to commit adultery with them.
2. Jeremiah 3:8 (NKJV) 8 Then I saw that for all the causes for which backsliding Israel had committed adultery, I had put her away and given her a certificate of divorce; yet her treacherous sister Judah did not fear, but went and played the harlot also.
3. Unfaithfulness might be another term.
4. But the idea is that they have given their love and affection to another.
5. They have forsaken their God.

- C. Jesus talked about a similar concept.
 - 1. Matthew 6:24 “No one can serve two masters; for either he will hate the one and love the other, or else he will be loyal to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and mammon.
- II. Friendship with the world.
- A. Oh but we live in a day of tolerance.
 - 1. That maybe but that idea of tolerance doesn’t have God’s stamp of approval upon it.
 - B. The word friendship or friend here is only used in this passage in all the NT.
 - 1. It comes from the word *philo* which is one of the word translated love.
 - 2. The idea is of friend here is someone who very close to like ourselves.
 - 3. Someone who we find no fault with.
 - 4. Someone who likes what we like and desires to do the same things as us.
 - C. That is the problem.
 - 1. 1 John 2:15-17 (NKJV)
 - a. 15 Do not love the world or the things in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him. 16 For all that is in the world--the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life--is not of the Father but is of the world. 17 And the world is passing away, and the lust of it; but he who does the will of God abides forever.
 - 2. According to James the world is at enmity with God.
 - 3. V-4b Do you not know that friendship with the world is enmity with God? Whoever therefore wants to be a friend of the world makes himself an enemy of God.
 - 4. 2 Corinthians 6:14-17 (NKJV)
 - a. 14 Do not be unequally yoked together with unbelievers. For what fellowship has righteousness with lawlessness? And what communion has light with darkness? 15 And what accord has Christ with Belial? Or what part has a believer with an unbeliever? 16 And what agreement has the temple of God with idols? For you are the temple of the living God. As God has said: "I will dwell in them And walk among them. I will be their God, And they shall be My people." 17 Therefore "Come out from among them And be separate, says the Lord. Do not touch what is unclean, And I will

receive you."

5. Paul tells us how he treated this world.
 - a. Galatians 6:14 (NKJV) 14 But God forbid that I should boast except in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, by whom the world has been crucified to me, and I to the world.

III. The Spirit who dwells in us yearns jealously

- A. The Scripture says.
 1. We do not know what passage James is referring to in this verse.
 2. Various verses have been supposed but none of them suit the passage perfectly.
- B. There is also wide interpretation as to what James is actually saying.
 1. These too vary depending on who you are reading.
 2. I will give you my take on this.
- C. The Spirit.
 1. Not the human spirit that all men have and is contrary to the things of God.
 2. But the Holy Spirit that only God's children have been given.
 3. Since James is setting the things of God against the things of the world, this seems the best understanding.
- D. Who dwells in us.
 1. The Holy Spirit has taken up residence in every child of God.
 2. Romans 8:5-9 (NKJV)
 - a. 5 For those who live according to the flesh set their minds on the things of the flesh, but those who live according to the Spirit, the things of the Spirit. 6 For to be carnally minded is death, but to be spiritually minded is life and peace. 7 Because the carnal mind is enmity against God; for it is not subject to the law of God, nor indeed can be. 8 So then, those who are in the flesh cannot please God. 9 But you are not in the flesh but in the Spirit, if indeed the Spirit of God dwells in you. **Now if anyone does not have the Spirit of Christ, he is not His.**
 3. So then it is speaking of the Holy Spirit that dwells in us as God's children.
- E. Yearns Jealously

1. The idea of yearning is the idea of deep desire.
 2. The Spirit of God in us is not just an impersonal force but the real being of God.
 3. And what is God's yearning for us, is it not that we might be like the Son.
 4. God's deepest desire for us is that we would be in agreement with Him and to fellowship with Him eternally.
- IV. James 4:6 But He gives more grace. Therefore He says: "God resists the proud, But gives grace to the humble."
- A. God gives us grace to meet those enemies that would dissuade us.
 - B. And since we have been made humble by God's grace He gives us more grace.
 - C. Praise be to God.

Christians have a nature so utterly distinct from the lovers of the world, the followers of Satan, that they should never entertain any of the ways or hold any of the loyalties that characterize unbelievers. *John MacArthur, MacArthur New Testament Commentary – James, (Chicago: Moody Press, 1998), WORDsearch CROSS e-book, 194.*