

James 4:4-10

# **FRIEND OR FOE**

## James 4:1-5

---

What is the source of quarrels and conflicts among you? Is not the source your pleasures that wage war in your members? <sup>2</sup> You lust and do not have; so you commit murder. You are envious and cannot obtain; so you fight and quarrel. You do not have because you do not ask. <sup>3</sup> You ask and do not receive, because you ask with wrong motives, so that you may spend *it* on your pleasures. <sup>4</sup> You adulteresses, do you not know that friendship with the world is hostility toward God? Therefore whoever wishes to be a friend of the world makes himself an enemy of God. <sup>5</sup> Or do you think that the Scripture speaks to no purpose: “He jealously desires the Spirit which He has made to dwell in us”?

## James 4:6-10

---

<sup>6</sup> But He gives a greater grace. Therefore *it* says, “GOD IS OPPOSED TO THE PROUD, BUT GIVES GRACE TO THE HUMBLE.” <sup>7</sup> Submit therefore to God. Resist the devil and he will flee from you. <sup>8</sup> Draw near to God and He will draw near to you. Cleanse your hands, you sinners; and purify your hearts, you double-minded. <sup>9</sup> Be miserable and mourn and weep; let your laughter be turned into mourning and your joy to gloom. <sup>10</sup> Humble yourselves in the presence of the Lord, and He will exalt you.



# Adulteresses?

---

- × Adulteresses/Adulterers/Adulterous people
- × Violating the sacred covenant between God and His people
  - + Lev 26:12 I will also walk among you and be your God, and you shall be My people.
  - + Deut. 6:5 You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your might.

## Friendship with the world

---

- ✘ friendship with the world is hostility toward God?
- ✘ whoever wishes to be a friend of the world makes himself an enemy of God.

## “Hey, why so down on the world, man?”

- × Cosmos- an order, system, and arrangement which is such because it is determined by a mastermind.
- × The mastermind?
  - + the ruler of this world (John 12:31, 14:30, 16:11)
  - + Satan

## Do not love this world!

---

- ✘ Do not love the world nor the things in the world.
- ✘ If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him.
- ✘ For all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh and the lust of the eyes and the boastful pride of life, is not from the Father, but is from the world.

1 John 2:15-16



Worldly

Heavenly





## For you are not your own

---

- ✘ “He jealously desires the spirit which He has made to dwell in us” v. 5b
- ✘ “You shall not make for yourself an idol, or any likeness of what is in heaven above or on the earth beneath or in the water under the earth. You shall not worship them or serve them; for I, the LORD your God, am a jealous God...” Exodus 20:4-5a

# Pride

---

- × God opposes the proud
- × Is pride just another sin?
  - + “Pride, which is the essence of self-centeredness, is in turn the root of practical worldliness.” –G. Keddie
  - + Thy pomp is brought down to the grave... How art thou fallen from heaven, O Lucifer, son of the morning!... For thou hast said in thine heart, I will ascend into heaven, I will exalt my throne above the stars of God Isa 14:11-13
  - + “and you will be like God” – the Serpent

---

# **Yikes!**

**Woe is me! for I am undone...**

# CHANGES TO MAKE (DO/DON'T DO)

× ?

× ?

× ?

× ?

× ?



## Marvelous, infinite, matchless grace

---

- × But He gives more grace (v. 6a)
- × But gives grace to the humble (v. 6c)
- × But God shows his love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us. (Romans 5:8)
- × But God, being rich in mercy, because of the great love with which he loved us, even when we were dead in our trespasses, made us alive together with Christ—by grace you have been saved (Ephesians 2:4-5)

## The cure to worldliness

---

- × Submit therefore to God (v.7a)
  - + initially- change of heart realization that Jesus is your Savior
  - + ongoing, growing, humble submission to Christ
  - + “Blessed are the poor in Spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.” Matthew 5:3

## The cure to worldliness

---

- ✘ Resist the devil and he will flee from you. v.7b
  - + True obedience finds much opposition by the devil
  - + The devil is an instigator of sin
- ✘ But in all these things we overwhelmingly conquer through Him who loved us. Romans 8:37
- ✘ Jesus is able to help those who are being tempted- Hebrews 2:14-18



# The cure to worldliness

---

- × Draw near to God and He will draw near to you. (v. 8a)
  - + This is indispensable for resisting the devil.
  - + God is the sole source of sanctification
    - × Having begun by the Spirit, are you now being perfected by the flesh? Galatians 3:3
  - + God is our sole source of satisfaction
  - + He is our means and our goal



## Beyond the Land of Canaan

- *An inheritance better than land...the Lord Himself!*
  - the Levities point beyond Canaan to a greater inheritance – the unhindered presence of God in the eternal kingdom (c.f. Rev. 22:3-5)

## The cure to worldliness

---

- ✘ Cleanse your hands, you sinners; and purify your hearts, you double-minded. (v.8b)
  - + Who may ascend into the hill of the LORD? And who may stand in His holy place? (Psalm 24:3-6)

## Psalm 24:3-6

---

Who may ascend into the hill of the LORD? And who may stand in His holy place?

He who has clean hands and a pure heart, Who has not lifted up his soul to falsehood And has not sworn deceitfully.

He shall receive a blessing from the LORD And righteousness from the God of his salvation.

This is the generation of those who seek Him, Who seek Your face—even Jacob.

## The cure to worldliness

---

- ✘ Cleanse your hands, you sinners; and purify your hearts, you double-minded. (v.8b)
  - + Who may ascend into the hill of the LORD? And who may stand in His holy place? (Psalm 24:3-6)
- ✘ like the Holy One who called you, be holy yourselves also in all your behavior; because it is written, "You shall be holy, for I am holy."  
1Peter 1:15-16



## The cure to worldliness

---

- ✘ Be miserable and mourn and weep; let your laughter be turned into mourning and your joy to gloom. (v. 9)
- ✘ The sacrifices of God are a broken spirit; A broken and a contrite heart, O God, You will not despise. Psalm 51

## Psalm 51:10-13

---

Create in me a clean heart, O God, And renew a steadfast spirit within me.

Do not cast me away from Your presence And do not take Your Holy Spirit from me.

Restore to me the joy of Your salvation And sustain me with a willing spirit.

*Then* I will teach transgressors Your ways, And sinners will be converted to You.

## Psalm 51:15-17

---

O Lord, open my lips, That my mouth may declare  
Your praise.

For You do not delight in sacrifice, otherwise I  
would give it; You are not pleased with burnt  
offering.

The sacrifices of God are a broken spirit; A  
broken and a contrite heart, O God, You will not  
despise.

## The cure to worldliness

---

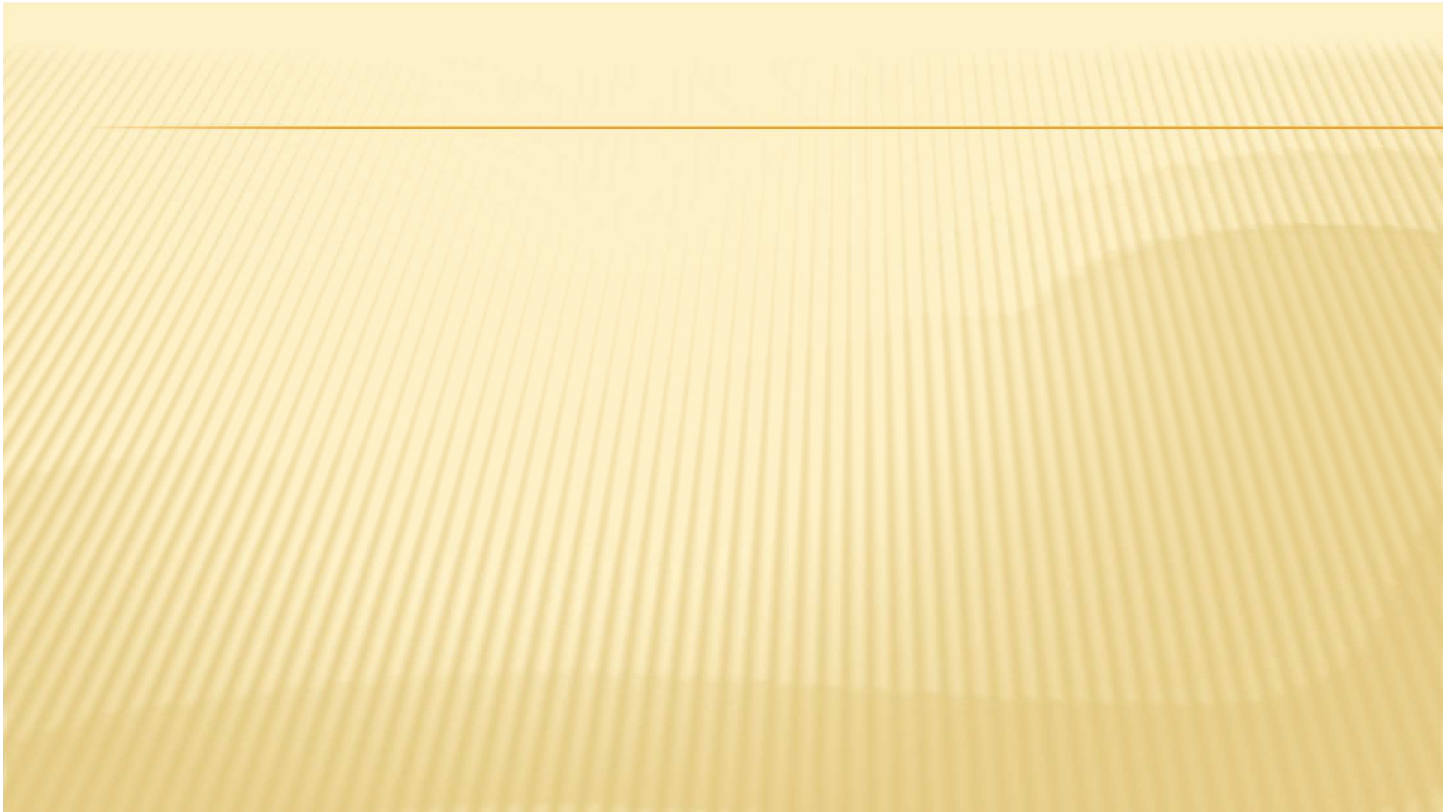
- × Humble yourselves in the presence of the Lord, and He will exalt you.
  - + The fruit of submission to God is that He will lift us up.
  - + “The grace of God will then be ready to raise us up, when he sees that our proud spirits are laid aside.”  
–John Calvin



## The cure to worldliness

---

- × Humble yourselves in the presence of the Lord, and He will exalt you.
  - + "He is no fool who gives up what he cannot keep to gain that which he cannot lose." Jim Elliot
  - + For what shall it profit a man, if he shall gain the whole world, and lose his own soul? Mark 8:36



Enhance your life, energize your ministry

# **ADDENDUM**

---

# Pray

---

- × For hunger and growth
- × For the body
- × For those ministering to you and your family
- × For our missionary partners
- × For the elder board
- × For Pastor Mark
- × For ways to serve
- × For the community



# Read the Bible

---

- × Daily devotion
- × Weekly sermon text (before and after)
- × As part of a study group
- × When challenged

# Participate

---

- × Consistent Sunday service attendance
- × Consistent Sunday school attendance
- × In a regular small group and/or study group
- × In congregational meetings
- × In special events

## Give Regularly

---

- × For the operation and ministries of Crossroads
- × To the Great Commission Fund
- × To the building fund
- × To supported missionaries
- × To special appeals

## Be a part of the body

---

- × Encourage one another
- × Be your brothers'/sisters' keeper
- × Care for one another
- × Engage in a work of service
- × Be gracious to one another



## Share your faith

---

- × With your neighbors
- × With your coworkers
- × With those in need
- × With the person God has been speaking to you about

---

And whatsoever you do,  
do all to the glory of God.