

REAL FAITH FOR THE REAL WORLD

The Book of James

PART 12

HOSTILITY OR HUMILITY

Winning the Most Important War

(James 4:1-10)

INTRODUCTION:

PREVIOUSLY: WALKING IN THE WAY OF TRUE WISDOM (JAMES 3:13-18)

“Who among you is wise and understanding? Let him show by his good behavior his deeds in the gentleness of wisdom.¹⁴ But if you have bitter jealousy and selfish ambition in your heart, do not be arrogant and so lie against the truth.”

- True wisdom is **exhibited** through **godly conduct** and **character**. It is your **way of life**, not simply your **words**, that ultimately gives **evidence** of true wisdom.
- James provided us with both a personal challenge and a profound contrast between **human** and **heavenly** wisdom, noting the divergent **origins, operation and outcomes** of each.

TODAY: WINNING THE MOST IMPORTANT WAR (JAMES 4:1-10)

“Where do all these appalling wars and quarrels come from?”

—James 4:1 (The Message)

- We are not only endangered by “worldly _____”; but we are also endangered by “worldly _____.”
- And this “_____” leads to “_____.”

1A. THE _____ OF OUR CONFLICTS: (4:1-3)

*“**What is the source** of quarrels and conflicts among you? **Is not the source your pleasures that wage war in your members?** ² 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. ³ You ask and **do not receive**, because you ask with wrong motives, so that you may spend it on your pleasures.”*

• A _____ and _____.

1B. Your _____ is wrong! (v. 2a)

2B. Your _____ are wrong! (v. 2b)

3B. Your _____ are wrong! (v. 3)

2A. THE _____ OF THE SITUATION: (4:4-6)

"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. ⁵ Or do you think that the Scripture speaks to no purpose: 'He jealously desires the Spirit which He has made to dwell in us'? ⁶ But He gives a greater grace. Therefore it says, 'GOD IS OPPOSED TO THE PROUD, BUT GIVES GRACE TO THE HUMBLE.'"

1B. A _____ : (v. 4-5)

1C. We can rightly be called an _____, for embracing this worldly spirit of prideful pursuit is a _____ of one's _____ relationship with God.

2C. We can rightly be called an _____, for embracing this worldly spirit of prideful pursuit is a _____ of the _____ Who mediates our relationship with God.

2B. A _____ : (v. 6)

3A. THE _____ : (4:7-10)

"Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you. ⁸ Draw near to God, and he will draw near to you. Cleanse your hands, you sinners, and purify your hearts, you double-minded. ⁹ Be wretched and mourn and weep. Let your laughter be turned to mourning and your joy to gloom. ¹⁰ Humble yourselves before the Lord, and he will exalt you."

• To embrace the greater way of _____ that truly _____ our selfish and sinful pride and passions is not a _____ or _____ decision, but involves a _____ and _____ and _____.

• Ten Imperatives:

1. _____ ... (Command 1)
2. _____ ... (Command 2)
3. _____ ... (Command 3)
4. _____ ... (Commands 4 & 5)
5. _____ ... (Commands 6, 7, 8, & 9)
6. _____ ... (Command 10)

CONCLUSION:

