

## Attitude check

### I. Introduction-

James, a servant of God and of the Lord Jesus Christ, To the twelve tribes in the Dispersion: Greetings. Jam 1:1

What causes quarrels and what causes fights among you? Is it not this, that your passions are at war within you? You desire and do not have, so you murder. You covet and cannot obtain, so you fight and quarrel. You do not have, because you do not ask. You ask and do not receive, because you ask wrongly, to spend it on your passions. You adulterous people! Do you not know that friendship with the world is enmity with God? Therefore whoever wishes to be a friend of the world makes himself an enemy of God. Jam 4:1

Quarrels; *polemos*, a war, a fight, a battle, a dispute, strife

Passions; *hēdonē*, desires for pleasure, lust

hedonistic; devoted to the pursuit of pleasure, characterized by hedonism

### II. What causes our quarrels and fights?

Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the schemes of the devil. For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the cosmic powers over this present darkness, against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly places. Eph 6:10  
Therefore it says, "God opposes the proud but gives grace to the humble." Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you. Draw near to God, and he will draw near to you. Cleanse your hands, you sinners, and purify your hearts, you double-minded. "God opposes the proud but gives grace to the humble." Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you. Draw near to God, and he will draw near to you. Cleanse your hands, you sinners, and purify your hearts, you double-minded. Jam 4:6

Heart; the center and seat of spiritual life

the fountain and seat of the thoughts, passions, desires, appetites, affections, purposes, and understanding

Proud; showing one's self conspicuous above others, pre-eminent

Double-minded; two minds, wavering, uncertain, doubting  
divided in interest

### A. We are controlled by who do we love, and believe-

You adulterous people! Do you not know that friendship with the world is enmity with God? Therefore whoever wishes to be a friend of the world makes himself an enemy of God. Jam 4:4

"You shall have no other gods before me. "You shall not make for yourself a carved image, or any likeness of anything that is in heaven above, or that is in the earth beneath. You shall not bow down to them or serve them, for I the LORD your God am a jealous God. Ex 20:3

Adultery; *moichalis*, an adulteress, the intimate alliance of God with the people of Israel was likened to a marriage, those who relapse into idolatry are said to commit adultery or play the harlot

Jealous; qannā', kan-naw'. jealous (only of God)

### B. Two kingdoms and two truths-

I appeal to you therefore, brothers, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship. Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that by testing you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect. Rom 12:1

If any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask God, who gives generously to all without reproach, and it will be given him. But let him ask in faith, with no doubting, for the one who doubts is like a wave of the sea that is driven and tossed by the wind. For that person must not suppose that he will receive anything from the Lord; he is a double-minded man, unstable in all his ways. Jam 1:5

Secular worldview; a presupposition that denies all evidence for the existence of God or for any supernatural influences on reality

Biblical worldview; a presupposition that recognizes the existence of God, Jesus, and the Holy Spirit and of their supernatural influences that define all of reality

1. The Christian worldview of truth-

All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, that the man of God may be complete, equipped for every good work. II Tim 3:16

The sum of your word is truth, and every one of your righteous rules endures forever. Ps 119:16

Inspired: breathed by the Spirit of God

Inerrant: free from error

Immutable: not capable or subject to change

Authoritative: proceeding from one with authority and control of events

Biblical worldview: a presupposition that recognizes the existence of God, Jesus, and the Holy Spirit and of their supernatural influences that define all of reality

2. The secular kingdom of personal truth and feelings

There is a way that seems right to a man, but its end is the way to death. Prov 1:12

The serpent said to the woman, "You will not surely die. For God knows that when you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil." Gen 3:4

Irrational: not governed according to reason of facts

Secular worldview: a presupposition that denies all evidence for the existence of God or for any supernatural influences on reality

### **C. The spiritual battle and quarrels inside of us between our flesh and our spirit-**

Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you. Draw near to God, and he will draw near to you. Cleanse your hands, you sinners, and purify your hearts, you double-minded. Humble yourselves before the Lord, and he will exalt you. Jam 4:7

If you have bitter jealousy and selfish ambition in your hearts, do not boast and be false to the truth. This is not the wisdom that comes down from above, but is earthly, unspiritual, demonic. For where jealousy and selfish ambition exist, there will be disorder and every vile practice. Jam 3:15

The fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control. Gal 5:21

Heart: the center and seat of spiritual life

Double-minded: two minds, wavering, uncertain, doubting, divided in interest

### **D. Quarrels start when we pass judgement on someone or something-**

Humble yourselves before the Lord, and he will exalt you. Do not speak evil against one another, brothers. The one who speaks against a brother or judges his brother, speaks evil against the law and judges the law. But if you judge the law, you are not a doer of the law but a judge. There is only one lawgiver and judge, he who is able to save and to destroy. But who are you to judge your neighbor? Do not grumble against one another, brothers, so that you may not be judged; behold, the Judge is standing at the door. Jam 4:10&5:9

"Judge not, that you be not judged. For with the judgment you pronounce you will be judged, and with the measure you use it will be measured to you. Why do you see the speck that is in your brother's eye, but do not notice the log that is in your own eye? You hypocrite, first take the log out of your own eye, and then you will see clearly to take the speck out of your brother's eye. Mat 7:1