



## Review of James 4:1-6

- 1. How do we realign our desires?** At the beginning of chapter 4, James had given his diagnosis of the hearts of the wayward Christians within the Jerusalem congregation. In verses 7-12, James gave the prescription. When a Christian discovers that our loves have gone astray and led us into sin, what should we do about it? As James has done throughout his epistle, he lays out a step by step process. First, we should in \_\_\_\_\_ agree with God—that he is right and we are wrong—by submitting to Him. We need to submit to His curriculum of love in order to get back on the road of life. Second, we need to \_\_\_\_\_ the devil. Just like Christ did in the wilderness, we need to be read with the sword of the word and shield of faith to resist the lies, temptations, and pitfalls of the devil. When we resist him in the power of Jesus Christ, he will flee from us. Third, by resisting the devil, we will be drawing near to God in obedience. In God’s great grace, as we fight to hold on to Christ we find that Christ has already been holding on to us. Fourth, our internal battle of \_\_\_\_\_ should manifest itself in our actions. James called us to cleanse our hands and hearts. In submitting to God we should give no quarter to the idols that would seek to lead us astray. We should cut them off and out of our lives with a ruthless zeal.
- 2. How does loving God this way change the way we see ourselves?** When we humble ourselves and submit to God, we are \_\_\_\_\_ to see our sin as He does. This means not suppressing the pain receptor of our souls—shame. \_\_\_\_\_ reminds us when our soul is in danger. James says that when we recognize what our sin does we should lament, mourn, and weep. Humility in our shame should cause us to lay aside any entangling sin and make ourselves low. Yet again, God gives more \_\_\_\_\_. When we do this, it is God, not ourselves, that will lift us up in His restorative love.
- 3. Lastly, how does loving God rightly change how we treat our neighbor?** James challenged us to realize that the \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ Great Commandments are linked. They cannot be separated as James’ opponents have claimed. Faith, loving God, and work, loving our neighbor, go hand in hand. We should take it as a warning if we ourselves say we love God but speak evil against our neighbor. This would be evidence that something has gone amiss in our hearts. This, in a secondary sense, makes us a judge of God’s law since we are unwilling to keep it. We should not put ourselves in the judgement seat but rather turn and look to Christ, who steps off His throne as the \_\_\_\_\_ Word of God to show God’s love in action.

### Questions for the Table:

1. In what areas of your work where you are tempted to act as if *that* space and time does not belong to God?
2. Do you feel a pull to look at exciting events in the future as things that will make you happy or bring you rest *apart from the joy of the Lord*? (Example... “*I’ll feel soooo much better once we are on the plane to Cancun.*”) How should we view vacations or even Saturdays in light of James’ teaching?
3. James challenges us to view our lives *backwards* here. Meaning, we should view our lives in light of our death (*we are nothing but a vapor*). How does this perspective help us to see reality clearly?
4. Discuss the link between *confession* of sound doctrine and the *action* of sound doctrine. Why is this a serious sin if they don’t align?
5. How has God displayed His love for us in space and time? How should that move us to act in space and time?