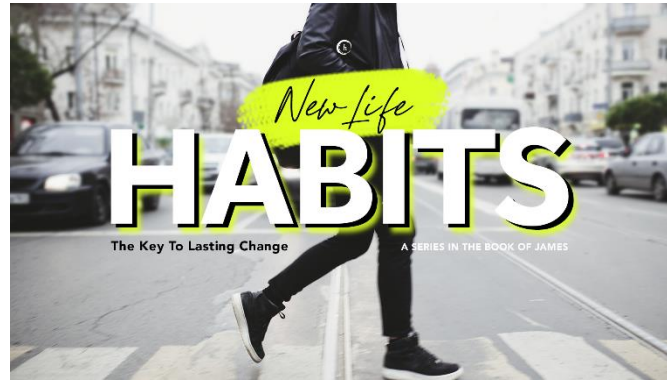


Looking for a Group to connect and dive deeper in your relationship with God and others? Check out Group Life on our app or contact Connections Pastor, Dustin Bramer, at dbramer@myhope.church.



Community Group Questions: James 4

1. James makes a strong statement in 4:4. It sounds a lot like I John 2:15-17. On the surface, it seems to contradict what Jesus said in John 3:16. It also seems different than Leviticus 19:9-18 or Matthew 22:36-40 (where “neighbor” usually meant “foreigner” or someone who is far from God). How do you reconcile these verses?
2. If Jesus was considered a “friend of sinners” (Matthew 11:19, Luke 7:34), how should that influence our reading of James 4:4?
3. Paul believed our mission is “compelled by Christ’s love to reconcile worldly people to God” (2 Corinthians 5:14-20). So, how does that influence your reading of James 4:4?
4. Do you think there is a difference between “being friends with the world” and “being friends with people in the world?” Does it help to read the difference as loving the sinful ways of the world vs loving the people in the world?
5. Remember, James is writing to scattered Christians who live among people who don’t share their faith or values. It is remarkable in verses 7-8 that James does not call them to a culture war but calls them to personal holiness. Do you think Christians today are more committed to control over others (through laws) or influence over others (through personal example)? Which do you think is more consistent with the message in James?