

**James 4:1-7a**

“Where Am I in the *Kosmos*?”

May 10, 2026

**V 1** “Where do wars and fights come from among you? Do they not come from your desires for pleasure that war in your members?”

Quarrels and conflicts arise from our flesh, warring in our “members,” or eyes, ears, tongues, hands, feet; the pleasure of seeking own way and will; the pleasure of envying someone who has anything better than we, or more of something than we; the pleasure of seeing someone defeated or deflated. These are deeds of the flesh, from which we are free. (**Romans Ch 6**).

**V 2** “You lust and do not have. You murder and covet and cannot obtain. You fight and war. Yet you do not have because you do not ask.” Fleshly pursuits are never fulfilling; always seeking, never finding. God promises wisdom to any who ask (**1:5**), so these believers had evidently not been asking for Godly wisdom at all. How often do we identify goals and pursue them without asking for God’s wisdom first?

**V 3** “You ask and do not receive, because you ask amiss, that you may spend it on your pleasures.”

“spend it” The idea is to “throw it out the window;” buying something that can only bring temporary happiness, but of no eternal value. God normally does not say “Yes” to these prayers. Every prayer has three possible answers: “Yes.”; “Yes, but not right now.”; or, “No, that is not in My will for you.”

**V 4** “Adulterers and adulteresses! Do you not know that friendship with the world is enmity with God? Whoever therefore wants to be a friend of the world makes himself an enemy of God.”

God relates to Israel with the metaphor of a wife, and to the NT church as a bride. See **Isaiah 54:5,6; Jeremiah 3; Ezekiel 16; Hosea 2; 2 Corinthians 11:2; Ephesians 5**. God considers us unfaithful spouses when we choose the way of the world over 100% devotion to Him and Him alone.

The “world” Gr *kosmos* senses of meaning:

1. adornment; orderly arrangement **1 Peter 3:3** “Your adornment must not be merely external...”

2. the Creation; **John 1:10a** “He was in the world, and the world was made through Him...,”

3. all the people of the world; **John 1:10b** “...and the world did not know Him.”

4. world system; values, moral code, ideologies of culture; **1 Cor 1:20** “...Has not God made foolish the wisdom of the world?”

See **John 15:18,19; 1 John 2:15,16; 1 John 5:19; John 16:11; 1 John 2:17**.

The world: Hates the believer; hates Christ; loves its own; you were rescued from it; told not to love it; lust of flesh, eyes, pride of life; not of the Father; under sway of wicked one; its ruler has been judged; it is passing away. Why give our lives for this, and live life out of fellowship with our Creator and Savior?

**V 5** “Or do you think that the Scripture says in vain, ‘The Spirit who dwells in us yearns jealously?’” [“He jealously desires the Spirit which He has made to dwell in us”? (NASB)] God jealously desires us to be spiritually minded! He yearns for our fellowship, which only happens when we are not a friend of the world.

Signs of friendship with world?

Envy, Self-seeking, Confusion, Quarrels, fighting, wars, Hatred, Coveting, Unanswered prayers, Lack of purity, peace, gentleness, mercy. See **James 3:14-4:3**.

**V 6** “But He gives more grace. Therefore He says:

‘God resists the proud,  
But gives grace to the humble.’

**V 7a** Therefore submit to God...”

God gives us grace to withstand the temptations of our flesh to live life “our” way, without regard to His wisdom. This is called growing in grace. **Titus 2:11** “For the grace of God that brings salvation has appeared to all men, **12** teaching us that, denying ungodliness and worldly lusts, we should live soberly, righteously, and godly in the present age...”

Submitting to God is accepting our place in the *kosmos*; we are *in* the world, but we are not *of* the world.