

The problem with a cheater

7.17.22

James 4:1 What is causing the quarrels and fights among you? Don't they come from the evil desires at war within you? ²You want what you don't have, so you scheme and kill to get it. You are jealous of what others have, but you can't get it, so you fight and wage war to take it away from them. Yet you don't have what you want because you don't ask God for it. ³And even when you ask, you don't get it because your motives are all wrong—you want only what will give you pleasure.

⁴You adulterers!^[a] Don't you realize that friendship with the world makes you an enemy of God? I say it again: If you want to be a friend of the world, you make yourself an enemy of God. ⁵Do you think the Scriptures have no meaning? They say that God is passionate that the spirit he has placed within us should be faithful to him.^[b] ⁶And he gives grace generously. As the Scriptures say,

“God opposes the proud
but gives grace to the humble.”^[c]

1. Don't be a cheater!

⁴You adulterers!^[a] Don't you realize that friendship with the world makes you an enemy of God? I say it again: If you want to be a friend of the world, you make yourself an enemy of God.

Matt 12:39 But Jesus replied, “Only an evil, adulterous generation would demand a miraculous sign; but the only sign I will give them is the sign of the prophet Jonah.

We can choose the world

I John 2:15-17 Do not love this world nor the things it offers you, for when you love the world, you do not have the love of the Father in you. ¹⁶For the world offers only a craving for physical pleasure, a craving for everything we see, and pride in our achievements and possessions. These are not from the Father, but

are from this world. ¹⁷ And this world is fading away, along with everything that people crave. But anyone who does what pleases God will live forever.

Living for yourself.

Living in the now.

Choosing habits you should not do.

Choosing places you should not be.

Choosing people, you should not see or be with.

Choosing to disregard the prompting of the Holy Spirit.

We can choose God

We can choose God's principles and plans for your life over our passions, people, plans, activities and habits.

Matt 12:30 ³⁰ "Anyone who isn't with me opposes me, and anyone who isn't working with me is actually working against me.

Matthew 16:24-26 Then Jesus said to his disciples, "If any of you wants to be my follower, you must give up your own way, take up your cross, and follow me. ²⁵ If you try to hang on to your life, you will lose it. But if you give up your life for my sake, you will save it. ²⁶ And what do you benefit if you gain the whole world but lose your own soul? Is anything worth more than your soul?

2. The problem with a cheater

--A cheater will have trouble with others

vs1 What is causing the quarrels and fights among you? Don't they come from the evil desires at war within you?

--A cheater will have trouble with self

2 "You want what you don't have, so you scheme and kill to get it. You are jealous of what others have, but you can't get it, so you fight and wage war to take it away from them. Yet you don't have what you want because you

don't ask God for it. ³ And even when you ask, you don't get it because your motives are all wrong—you want only what will give you pleasure.”

“Uncontrolled desire/Unfulfilled desires/Selfish desire” John MacArthur

--A cheater will have trouble with God

“⁴ You adulterers!^[a] Don't you realize that friendship with the world makes you an enemy of God? I say it again: If you want to be a friend of the world, you make yourself an enemy of God.

As the Scriptures say, “God opposes the proud but gives grace to the humble.”^[c]

3. A perpetual cheater potentially has an eternal problem

⁵ Do you think the Scriptures have no meaning? They say that God is passionate that the spirit he has placed within us should be faithful to him.^[b] ⁶ And he gives grace generously. As the Scriptures say,

“God opposes the proud
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I John 2:15 Do not love this world nor the things it offers you, for when you love the world, you do not have the love of the Father in you.

Close:

“If there are a thousand steps between us and God, He will take all but one. He will leave the final one for us. The choice is ours.” **Max Lucado**