

James: Faith at Work

"Avoiding the Attraction of Worldliness"

James 4:1-12

Sunday, September 20th, 2026

~ As we begin chapter four, James, is going to get a little harsher and a little more direct. But I believe, he remains very practical. He is dealing with the problems believers face as followers of Christ.

> Conflict is a part of everyday life. It comes in all shapes, sizes, and forms. It comes whether we like it or not...

But wisdom helps us get through conflict. It's actually the way we are able to resolve conflict. And, wisdom is also the way fight against worldliness.

> James 4:1-12 in summary, says that true wisdom and peace come from submitting to God, resisting worldly temptations, and embracing humility.

> John Piper's question is one we should all seriously consider...

"What would we do without the Bible? Answer: we would presume that our own wisdom could penetrate the mysteries of life and point people to their eternal good."

I. _____ Quarrelsome Causes (v. 1-3)

- He begins by asking a question that penetrates the very heart of the reader: He says "What causes fights and quarrels among you?" The answer may surprise you....most times it is _____!

a) James' Caution for **Conflict** (v. 1-2)

Jessica B. (Author) - "Conflict is an opportunity to experience our peacemaking God and be changed by him, so preparing ourselves and others for the day conflict dies and peace reigns."

b) Don't Ask, Don't _____ (v.3)

II. _____ Your Worldly Allegiances (v. 4-6)

c) James' Instruction towards _____ Hearts

~ Why would James used the word adulterers? Don't forget the primary picture the NT paints in the relationship of Jesus and the church is that of a husband and his bride!

~ Sam Allberry helps us out here; he once said "Will love of self draw me from God, or will love of God draw me from myself?"

~ Note vs. 6 - "HE GIVES YOU MORE GRACE!"

III. _____ Humble Submission to Christ (v. 7-10)

~ Submission is not weakness. The world has this backwards! We're not supposed to just adapt to "good moral behavior." We're supposed to submit and be transformed by the Spirit and power of God.

~ Why submit to Christ? Because it's all about Him! The world was not made by us, nor does it revolve around us. *Note Colossians 1:15-16*

d) A Life of _____ Grief (v. 9-10)

~ This isn't an oxymoron! It is tough to learn to hate sin.. but we as redeemed believers should not love our sin and welcome it, we should be hating it.

IV. _____ Your Speech (v. 11-12)

e) Final Warning on the _____

> Why is the command to avoid worldliness so important? We need to be aware and to fight against worldliness because the world _____ us.

"Do not love the world or the things in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him. For all that is in the world—the desires of the flesh and the desires of the eyes and pride of life—is not from the Father but is from the world. And the world is passing away along with its desires, but whoever does the will of God abides forever."

- 1 John 2:15-17