

James 4:1-10

“Friend Or Foe?”

I. A Foe (*Enemy*) of God

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A. The Flesh (v. 1, 5)

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A. The Flesh (v. 1, 5)

Galatians 5:17 (NKJV)

¹⁷For the flesh lusts against the Spirit, and the Spirit against the flesh; and these are contrary to one another, so that you do not do the things that you wish.

“You lust” (v. 2)

- literally, “you set your mind (or heart) on” an object.

“Amiss” (v. 3)

- evilly: with evil intent

I. A Foe (*Enemy*) of God

A. The Flesh (v. 1, 5)

B. The World (v. 4)

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“Friendship with the world = enmity with God”

The Down-Spiral of Friendship with the World:

1 John 2:15–16 (NKJV)

¹⁵Do not love the world or the things in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him.

¹⁶For all that is in the world—the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life—is not of the Father but is of the world.

The Down-Spiral of Friendship with the World:

1 John 2:15–16 (NLT)

¹⁵Do 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.

The Down-Spiral of Friendship with the World:

Romans 12:2 (NKJV)

²And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what is that good and acceptable and perfect will of God.

The Down-Spiral of Friendship with the World:

Hebrews 12:5–6 (NKJV)

⁵And you have forgotten the exhortation which speaks to you as to sons: “My son, do not despise the chastening of the Lord, Nor be discouraged when you are rebuked by Him;

⁶For whom the Lord loves He chastens, And scourges every son whom He receives.”

The Down-Spiral of Friendship with the World:

1 Corinthians 3:14–15 (NKJV)

¹⁴If anyone's work which he has built on it endures, he will receive a reward.

¹⁵If anyone's work is burned, he will suffer loss; but he himself will be saved, yet so as through fire.

I. A Foe (*Enemy*) of God

A. The Flesh (v. 1, 5)

B. The World (v. 4)

C. The Devil (v. 7)

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PRIDE = his greatest sin!

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PRIDE = his greatest sin!

The king of D-I-Y — Spiritually

- **A Major Failure!**

I. A Foe (*Enemy*) of God

A. The Flesh (v. 1, 5)

B. The World (v. 4)

C. The Devil (v. 7)

D. Who is an Enemy of God? (v. 6)

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How does a believer declare war on God?

- By being friendly with God's enemies

II. Friend of God

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A. Him Alone (v. 5-6)

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Deuteronomy 6:4–5 (NKJV)

⁴“Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God, the Lord is one!

⁵You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart,
with all your soul, and with all your strength.

A. Him Alone (v. 5-6)

James 4:5 (AMP)

⁵Or do you suppose that the Scripture is speaking to no purpose that says, The Spirit Whom He has caused to dwell in us yearns over us and He yearns for the Spirit [to be welcome] with a jealous love?

A. Him Alone (v. 5-6)

“Gives grace to the humble”

- —ever increasing grace;
- —the farther you depart from “envy”

II. Friend of God

A. Him Alone (v. 5-6)

B. Practical Steps to Peace With God (v. 7-10)

1. Submit to God (v. 7)

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- This word is a military term that means
 - “get into your proper rank.”
- Resist the devil
 - “Stand bravely against”

1. Submit to God (v. 7)

- “he (devil) will flee”
 - “he SHALL flee”
 - It is a promise of God!

II. Friend of God

A. Him Alone (v. 5-6)

B. Practical Steps to Peace With God (v. 7-10)

1. Submit to God (v. 7)

2. Draw Near to God (v. 8)

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How do we do this?

- Purifying our hearts
 - By confessing our sins and asking for His cleansing

2. Draw Near to God (v. 8)

When we do this:

- The devil will flee!
- God graciously draws near to us

II. Friend of God

A. Him Alone (v. 5-6)

B. Practical Steps to Peace With God (v. 7-10)

1. Submit to God (v. 7)

2. Draw Near to God (v. 8)

3. Humble Yourself Before God (v. 9-10)

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James 4:9 (AMP)

⁹[As you draw near to God] be deeply penitent and grieve, even weep [over your disloyalty]. Let your laughter be turned to grief and your mirth to dejection and heartfelt shame [for your sins].

3. Humble Yourself Before God (v. 9-10)

Psalms 51:17 (NKJV)

17The sacrifices of God are a broken spirit, A broken and a contrite heart— These, O God, You will not despise.

3. Humble Yourself Before God (v. 9-10)

Psalm 34:18 (NKJV)

**¹⁸The Lord is near to those who have a broken heart,
And saves such as have a contrite spirit.**

II. Friend of God

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B. Practical Steps to Peace With God (v. 7-10)

1. Submit to God (v. 7)

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C. He Will Lift You Up (v. 10)

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“in the sight of the Lord”

- —as continually in the presence of Him who alone is worthy to be exalted:
- recognizing His presence in all your ways, the truest incentive to humility.

C. He Will Lift You Up (v. 10)

“lift you up”

—in part in this world, fully in the world to come.

Are you a friend of God?

Or

Are you living as an enemy of God?