

Stop Being Friends

The Test of Worldly Indulgence James 4:1-6 Chris Mueller 2-6-22

Introduction:

1st The world is a source of great danger to the soul

2nd The world requires our separation from it, but that does not mean...

3rd The world requires our separation from it, and that does mean...

4th The world is a Christian's enemy, so how can you be victorious?

2 Timothy 4:10 for Demas, having loved this present world, has deserted me...

Matthew 6:24 No one can serve two masters...

James 4:1 What is the source of quarrels and conflicts among you? Is not the source your pleasures that wage war in your members? 2 You lust and do not have; so you commit murder. You are envious and cannot obtain; so you fight and quarrel. You do not have because you do not ask. 3 You ask and do not receive, because you ask with wrong motives, so that you may spend it on your pleasures. 4 You adulteresses, do you not know that friendship with the world is hostility toward God? Therefore whoever wishes to be a friend of the world makes himself an enemy of God. 5 Or do you think that the Scripture speaks to no purpose: "He jealously desires the Spirit which He has made to dwell in us"? 6 But He gives a greater grace. Therefore it says, "GOD IS OPPOSED TO THE PROUD, BUT GIVES GRACE TO THE HUMBLE."

#1 Conflict with others 1a

1 What is the source of quarrels and conflicts among you?

John 13:35 By this all men will know that you are My disciples, if you have love for one another.

Acts 4:32 the congregation of those who believed were of one heart and soul;

1 Corinthians 1:10 by the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that you all agree and that there be no divisions among you, but that you be made complete in the same mind and in the same judgment

Philippians 1:27 with one mind striving together for the faith of the gospel

#2 Conflict with self 1b-3

1st _____ desires 1b
1b Is not the source your pleasures that wage war in your members?

2nd _____ desire 2a
2a You lust and do not have; so you commit murder

2b You are envious and cannot obtain; so you fight and quarrel

1 John 2:15b If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him

3rd _____ desire 2b-3
2b You do not have because you do not ask.

1 John 3:22 and whatever we ask we receive from Him, because we keep His commandments and do the things that are pleasing in His sight.

1 John 5:14 This is the confidence which we have before Him, that, if we ask anything according to His will, He hears us

3 You ask and do not receive, because you ask with wrong motives, so that you may spend it on your pleasures

#3 CONFLICT with GOD ⁴⁻⁵

John 15:18 "If the world hates you, you know that it has hated Me before it hated you. **19** "If you were of the world, the world would love its own; but because you are not of the world, but I chose you out of the world, because of this the world hates you.
Galatians 6:14 ... may it never be that I would boast, except in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, through which the world has been crucified to me, and I to the world.

1st _____ toward God ⁴

4a *You adulteresses, do you not know that friendship with the world is hostility toward God?*

4b *Therefore, whoever wishes to be a friend of the world makes himself an enemy of God.*

Philippians 3:19 whose end is destruction, whose god is their appetite, and whose glory is in their shame, who set their minds on earthly things

2nd _____ God ⁵

5 *Or do you think that the Scripture speaks to no purpose: "He jealously desires the Spirit which He has made to dwell in us"?*

... (NASB) *He jealously desires the Spirit which He has made to dwell in us.*

... (NIV) *The spirit he caused to live in us envies intensely.*

... (KJV) *The spirit that dwelleth in us lusteth to envy.*

... (ESV) *He yearns jealously over the spirit that he has made to dwell in us?*

The scripture does not affirm anywhere that the internal Spirit, which God caused to dwell in us at salvation, sins or enviously desires the things of the world. No! According to verse 6, God gives greater grace in salvation.

Does the Spirit which God has caused to dwell in us desire the world enviously? No! God did not save you in this way, since God is the source of only good.

#4 Confidence in GOD ⁶

1st Dependence upon His _____ ^{6a}

6a *But He gives a greater grace.*

The only way for your heart to be free of love for the world is for Christ in salvation to shed God's love abroad in your heart.

Romans 5:20 where sin increased, grace abounded all the more,

2nd His grace upon the _____ ^{6b}

6b *Therefore it says, "God is opposed to the proud, but gives grace to the humble."*

TAKE HOME:

A. Are you separate from the world or are you _____ in the world?

2 Corinthians 6:17 ... COME OUT FROM THEIR MIDST AND BE SEPARATE ...

Romans 12:2 do not be conformed to this world

1 John 2:15 do not love the world

B. Are you pursuing your _____ in this world?

Questions for Growth in Christ

1. Why does James address loving the world to the churches that he writes? What was the problem?
2. If James writes to expose the phony Christian and to convict the genuine Christian, how do you think each should respond?
3. What does a church attender look like who is loving the world? What are some of the obvious indicators of the worldly?
4. What areas of life have believers who live in a wealthy culture overlooked, compromised, or ignored concerning worldliness?
5. How can genuine Christians evaluate their heart for worldliness or idols, and what steps can they take to stop being worldly?
6. What steps will you take to become less worldly and more in love with Christ this week?



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