

October 18, 2020

The Bridge Bible Fellowship

Pastor Paul S. Brown

James 4:1-10

“Be a True Friend of God!” – Part 2

IX. Be a true friend of God (4:1-10)

A. The Earthly Problem (1-5)

1. Q & A #1 (1-3) – Battle with yourself

2. Q & A #2 (4) – Battle with God

Question: “You adulteresses, do you not know that friendship with the world is hostility toward God?” (NASB95)

Adulteresses – mistresses; harlots; unfaithful to your husband

- Ex. 20:14; Deut. 22:22; Prov. 2:16ff; 6:26ff – physical
- Is. 54:5; Ezek. 23:37ff – spiritual
- Hosea
- Ezekiel 16

Amplified Bible: “You are like unfaithful wives having illicit love affairs with the world and breaking your marriage vows to God!”

Answer: “Therefore, whoever wishes to be a friend of the world makes himself an enemy of God” (NASB95)

Unbeliever? (Demas – 2 Tim. 4:10; Judas)

Believer? (Peter – Gal. 2; Paul – Rom. 7; the Corinthian Church)

Are you shocked by what James says here?

So what?

- 1. Is it painful to see your name in verse 4? “Adulteress”**
- 2. What “friend” from this evil world system has become more important to you than God?**
- 3. Are you a better friend with the world today than you were a year ago?**
- 4. What would God say about your friendship with Him right now?**

Discussion & Application:

1. Take a few minutes to pray before discussing this passage of Scripture. Ask the Lord to soften your hearts and make you receptive to what He wants you to learn.
2. What was your initial reaction to the story Pastor Paul told about the police officer being mocked at a drive thru? Did she have a right to be offended by the behavior of the employees? How much spit should she have to tolerate in her drink? Should people treat her that way when she puts her life on the line for them every day?
3. What was your reaction to being called an “adulteress” by God (James 4:4)? Were you shocked? Defensive? Why or why not?
4. What does the Bible say about physical adultery? (Add Heb. 13:4 to the verses on the outline, then add your own) Why does it carry such a strong penalty in the Old Testament? How does adultery specifically match the point James is making about Hedonism (pleasure) being at the root of their conflicts?
5. What does the Bible say about spiritual adultery? Based on Ezekiel 16, why is spiritual adultery so painful to God? What had He lovingly done for Israel? What was their response to His faithful love? What are some excuses they might have given for committing spiritual adultery (idolatry)? Why did it make sense to them at the time? What would wisdom from above say about that line of reasoning? What is God’s ultimate response to the spiritual adultery of Israel in Ezek. 16:60-63?
6. What does James mean by the term “world”? What are some ways we choose to be friends with the world? (Thoughts, attitudes, words, actions)
7. Why can’t a Christian be a friend of the world and a friend of God? (See Mt. 6:19-24; 1 John 2:15-17) Why does choosing to be a friend of the world make me an enemy of God? Give examples.
8. Does God have feelings? Are His feelings as intense as ours? After all He has done to be a loving, loyal, faithful husband, what must He feel when His bride chooses another lover over Him? James 4:1-3 challenges us to LOOK INSIDE our own hearts and deal with our preoccupation with pleasure. James 4:4 challenges us to LOOK UP and see the pain in the eyes of our God when our pleasure seeking leads us to be friends with the world instead of Him. People often think that their “sin isn’t hurting anybody.” How does our sin hurt God? How should your answer to that question motivate you to say no to the world and yes to a more intimate, obedient, faithful relationship with the Lord?
9. What specific steps can you take this week to stop being a friend of the world? What specific steps can you take this week to being a true friend of God?
10. If you haven’t already done so, **memorize James 4:1-10**. Recite it in the morning and at lunchtime. In the evening, go back over James chapters 1-3 to retain what you have already memorized.

Bojangles fires employees who allegedly pretended to spit in officer's order

IX. Become a True Friend of God!

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.”⁷ Submit therefore to God. Resist the devil and he will flee from you.⁸ Draw near to God and He will draw near

to you. Cleanse your hands, you sinners; and purify your hearts, you double-minded. ⁹ Be miserable and mourn and weep; let your laughter be turned into

mourning and your joy to gloom. ¹⁰ Humble
yourselves in the presence of the Lord, and He will
exalt you.

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(Ex. 20:14; Dt. 22:22; Hosea; Ezek. 16)

Answer: “Therefore, whoever wishes to be a friend of the world makes himself an enemy of God.”

Are we shocked?

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