



## **James:** *Wisdom for the Christian Faith*

James 4:1-6 Wisdom for Avoiding Worldliness

### Introduction

- ❖ James 3:18—*And a harvest of righteousness is sown in peace by those who make peace.*
- ❖ Matthew 5:9—*Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called sons of God*

### Fighting and Bickering

#### ❖ **James 4:1-3**

##### **1. They're not getting along with one another**

- ❖ Matthew 5:21-22—*"You have heard that it was said to those of old, You shall not murder; and whoever murders will be liable to judgment.' But I say to you that everyone who is angry with his brother will be liable to judgment; whoever insults his brother will be liable to the council; and whoever says, 'You fool!' will be liable to the hell of fire."*

##### **2. They're not getting anything from God**

### The Cause of these Problems

#### ❖ **James 4:1-3**

##### **1. Double-Mindedness**

- ❖ James 4:8—*...purify your hearts, you double-minded*
- ❖ Romans 7:15—*For I do not understand my own actions. For I do not do what I want, but I do the very thing I hate.*
- ❖ Romans 7:18-19—*For I know that nothing good dwells in me, that is, in my flesh. For I have the desire to do what is right, but not the ability to carry it out. For I do not do the good I want, but the evil I do not want is what I keep on doing.*
- ❖ Galatians 5:17—*the desires of the flesh are against the Spirit, and the desires of the Spirit are against the flesh, for these are opposed to each other, to keep you from doing the things you want to do.*

##### **2. Prayerlessness**

##### **3. Selfishness**

- ❖ James 1:14-15—*But each person is tempted when he is lured and enticed by his own desire. Then desire when it has conceived gives birth to sin, and sin when it is fully grown brings forth death.*



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### The Seriousness of the Problem

#### ❖ James 4:4

##### 1. An adulterous people

- ❖ Isaiah 54:5—*For your Maker is your husband, the Lord of hosts is his name; and the Holy One of Israel is your Redeemer, the God of the whole earth he is called.*
- ❖ Jeremiah 2:2—*“Go and proclaim in the hearing of Jerusalem, Thus says the Lord, “I remember the devotion of your youth, your love as a bride, how you followed me in the wilderness, in a land not sown.*
- ❖ Hosea 2:19-20—*I will betroth you to me forever. I will betroth you to me in righteousness and in justice, in steadfast love and in mercy. I will betroth you to me in faithfulness. And you shall know the Lord.*
- ❖ Jeremiah 3:20—*Surely, as a treacherous wife leaves her husband, so have you been treacherous to me, O house of Israel, declares the Lord.”*
- ❖ Ephesians 5:32—*This mystery is profound, and I am saying that it refers to Christ and the church.*
- ❖ 1 Corinthians 2:2—*For I decided to know nothing among you except Jesus Christ and him crucified.*

##### 2. An enemy of God

- ❖ Luke 11:23—*Whoever is not with me is against me, and whoever does not gather with me scatters.*

###### (1) To **think** the way the world thinks

- ❖ Acts 20:24—*But I do not account my life of any value nor as precious to myself, if only I may finish my course and the ministry that I received from the Lord Jesus, to testify to the gospel of the grace of God.*
- ❖ 2 Timothy 4:7—*I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith.*

###### (2) To **love** what the world loves

- ❖ 1 John 2:15—*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.*

###### (3) To **act** like the world

#### ❖ James 4:5



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- ❖ Exodus 20:3-5—“You shall have no other gods before me. You shall not make for yourself a carved image, or any likeness of anything that is in heaven above, or that is in the earth beneath, or that is in the water under the earth. You shall not bow down to them or serve them, for I the Lord your God am a jealous God,”

## The Solution to the Problem

### ❖ James 4:6a

- ❖ Romans 5:10—*For if while we were enemies we were reconciled to God by the death of his Son, **much more**, now that we are reconciled, shall we be saved by his life.*
- ❖ Romans 5:15—*But the free gift is not like the trespass. For if many died through one man's trespass, **much more have the grace of God** and the free gift by the grace of that one man Jesus Christ **abounded for many.***
- ❖ Colossians 3:1-2—*If then you have been raised with Christ, **seek the things that are above, where Christ is**, seated at the right hand of God. **Set your minds on things that are above**, not on things that are on earth.*
- ❖ Hebrews 12:1-2—*Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us also lay aside every weight, and sin which clings so closely, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, **looking to Jesus**, the founder and perfecter of our faith,*