

Series: "Marks Of Maturity"
"Worldliness"
James 4:1-10
Study-8

James Reveals 3 Wars confronting us:
War with God - War with Ourselves - War with Each Other -

The chief cause lies within us, not the outside. James 4:1

James has just spoken about wisdom.
He contrasted the wisdom from the earth and that of heaven.
Worldliness – James 4:4

Book of James presents - (13 Marks Of Maturity)
Mark #8 "Worldliness" – choosing pleasure, passion for self-gratification
(Worldly-Wisdom)

Thought Of Our Passage: "Worldliness Caused By Our Passions Results In Being Enemies Of God; Cured By Resisting, Drawing, Forsaking, And Acknowledging."

- 1. Verses 1-3 Results Of Giving Self 1st Priority:**
- 2. Verses 4-6 Error Of Establishing Wrong Priorities:**
- 3. Verses 7-10 Requirement Of Giving God 1st Priority:**

1. Verses 1-3 Results Of Giving Self 1st Priority:

James 4:1 What is the source of quarrels and conflicts among you?

Context - James has just spoken of the peace that results from the wisdom of above. **James 3:18**

What is the source of – "*from where, what place?*"
quarrels and conflicts among you? ("In you")

These quarrels and conflicts were strife among Christians

Context – "*This passage is an in-depth treatment of the havoc brought when worldly wisdom rather than heavenly wisdom dominates life.*"

quarrels - speaks of "*wars, that which was ongoing.*"

conflicts - speaks of "*flair ups, outbursts, fights*"

2 Corinthians 12:20

James cites three areas from which these conflicts come from.

Verses 1-3 Selfishness

Verses 4-5 Worldliness

Verse 6 Pride - pleasures - "*lust, desires*" this is not necessarily wrong.

Greek - hedone (hay-don-ay) pleasure, desires for pleasure.

Used **twice Verse – 1, 3 lust, pleasure, enjoyment**

We get word "**Hedonism**" – *philosophy, "pleasure is the chief end of life."*
Not glorifying God, but pleasure for self! **1 Peter 2:11**

in your members?

That is the problem, people living for self, selfishness.

Notice the two questions that James asks his readers.

What is the source of quarrels and conflicts among you?

Is not the source your pleasures that wage war in your members?

The word "you" is used **13 times in Verses 1-5**

The essence of sin is selfishness. It is our will over God's will.

Sin is the spiritual problem, and it utilizes the physical body as its instrument. Romans 7:22-23

James 4:2 Uncontrolled Passion: You lust and do not have, so you commit murder. Matthew 5:21-22; 1 John 3:15

James 4:11-12 Slander (Character Assassination)

You are envious and cannot obtain;

Selfish desires are never satisfied.

so you fight and quarrel.

You do not have because you do not ask.

Did not want what God offers!

James 4:3 You ask,

We use the covering that we prayed about it.

do not receive, God's answer to prayer sometimes is "NO!" Psalm 145:18

because you ask with wrong motives, (evil intent),

Asking all for yourself, not God's glory.

so that you may spend it on your pleasures, gratify your own lusts from within.

2. Verses 4-6 Error Of Establishing Wrong Priorities:

James 4:4 You adulteresses,

James uses another metaphorical term, speaking of spiritual adultery, spiritual infidelity (unfaithful people). **Worldliness - Verses 4-5**

Israel would leave God and would begin to worship other gods; it was looked at as "committing spiritual adultery." **Jeremiah 9:2**

(Believers are the bride of Christ)

Given over to the world and not that of Jesus Christ

Bible's Definition of Worldliness: do you not know that friendship with the world is hostility toward God? 1 John 2:15

"World" Is James speaking about (Creation), flowers, trees, and the natural wonders?

World of needy people? No! John 3:16

world - Greek *kosmos* "the world system that teaches living a life without God; man can do well without God" "The evil world system without God." **John 17:15-16**

is hostility toward God?

Therefore whoever (anyone) wishes to be a friend of the world,

friend - "Love" it is the love and friendship with the world.

Philippians 3:18-19

makes himself an enemy of God.

James is speaking of spiritual adultery, unfaithfulness to God.

James 4:5 Or do you think that the Scripture speaks to no purpose:

Today, we might say, "The Bible Teaches" and not be thinking of just one passage.

"He jealously desires - "strong longing affection"

the Spirit which He has made to dwell in us"?

The Spirit of God desires us. God wants all of us. **Exodus 20:5**

Ephesians 4:30 Do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God,

James 4:6 But He gives a greater grace. Not only Saving Grace but Living Grace. Romans 5:20 but where sin increased, grace abounded all the more,

Pride Prevents God's Grace:

Therefore it says, "GOD IS OPPOSED TO THE PROUD,

Fallen humanity by nature is proud, we want to do it ourselves

BUT GIVES GRACE TO THE HUMBLE."

God forgives, delivers/strength. **Proverbs 3:34**

3. Verses 7-10 Requirement Of Giving God 1st Priority:

James 4:7

James Gives Four Steps To Cure Worldliness.

1. Submit therefore to God.

Note **therefore** - "What Is the therefore, therefore?"

God is opposed to the proud, but gives His grace to the humble, (So humble selves)

Submit to God.

Means to obey, which is obedience

Submit/Subject - Greek military term meaning (a command) "to arrange troop divisions in a military fashion under the command of a leader" In non- military use, it was "a voluntary attitude of giving in, cooperating, assuming responsibility"

Ephesians 5:21

2. Resist the devil - Defensive word, "to withstand an attack."
Ephesians 6:13 "take your stand against"
withstand devil – "the slanderer"

Armor - Ephesians 6:10-17,
All parts are defensive, with the exception of the sword.

God's Condition: Resist the devil

God's Promise: and he will flee from you.
Believer's victory is with the condition that we must resist the devil.

James 4:8 3. Draw near to God and He will draw near to you.
O.T. speaks of the priest and their responsibilities.
Used of worshippers being called to God. **Exodus 19:22; Hebrews 4:16**

God's Condition: Draw near to God God's Promise:
He will draw near to you

Actions: Cleanse your hands, you sinners.
This is an appeal to Christians who have become filthy in sin.
Hands speak of activity. Stop doing what you are doing.

Attitudes: and purify your hearts, (inward and outward) you double minded.
"two souled, had double allegiance" Inward thoughts, attitudes.
1 Peter 1:22; 1 John 3:3

James 4:9 4. Be miserable - wretchedness and misery that sinning should produce. Weigh our sin, consider the wrong. **Paul said, Romans 7:24 wretched man I am!**

and mourn,
The grieving and sorrow that a believer should experience in repentance.
and weep; The outward display of sorrow.

Don't Make A Joke Out Of Your Sinfulness:
let your laughter be turned into mourning, and your joy to gloom.
Proverbs 14:9

James 4:10 Humble yourselves
Isaiah 66:2 in the presence of the Lord,
Surrender to God! **1 Peter 5:6**

and He will exalt you.
(Moral and spiritual elevation) **Psalm 51:17**

Application:

1. Resist The Efforts Of The Devil
2. Drawing Near To God In Faith And Worship
3. Forsaking Sinful Deeds And Thoughts
4. Acknowledging Sinfulness Wth Serious Reflection And Appropriate Belief