

"Friendship with the World or Friendship with God?"

James 4:4-6

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## 1. \_\_\_\_\_ with God is not compatible with \_\_\_\_\_ with the world

**Vs. 4a:** You adulterous people!

**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."

**Vs. 4b:** Do you not know that **friendship with the world is enmity with God**? Therefore whoever wishes to be a friend of the world makes himself **an enemy of God**.

**A. What this \_\_\_\_\_ mean**

**Matthew 5:14-16:** "You are the light of the world...In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father who is in heaven.

**John 17:15:** I do not ask that you take them out of the world, but that you keep them from the evil one.

**John 3:16:** "For **God so loved the world**, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life."

**B. What this \_\_\_\_\_ mean**

**Psalms 1:1:** Blessed is the man who walks not in the counsel of the wicked, nor stands in the way of sinners, nor sits in the seat of scoffers;

**1 John 2:15-17:** 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. For all that is in the world—the desires of the flesh and the desires of the eyes and pride of life—is not from the Father but is from the world...

**Matthew 6:24:** "No one can serve two masters...You cannot serve God and money."

**Galatians 1:10:** For am I now seeking the approval of man, or of God?...If I were still trying to please man, I would not be a servant of Christ.

## 2. \_\_\_\_\_ with God is His desire for us

**Vs. 5:** Or do you suppose it is to no purpose that the Scripture says, "He yearns jealously over the spirit that he has made to dwell in us"?

**Exodus 20:4-5a:** "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..."

**Ezekiel 36:26-27:** And I will give you a new heart, and a **new spirit** I will put within you. And I will remove the heart of stone from your flesh and give you a heart of flesh. **And I will put my Spirit within you**, and cause you to walk in my statutes and be careful to obey my rules.

**Galatians 5:16-17:** But I say, **walk by the Spirit**, and you will not gratify the desires of the flesh. For 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.

**1 Thess. 5:19:** Do not quench the Spirit.

## 3. \_\_\_\_\_ with God is possible for the humble

**Vs. 6:** But he gives more grace. Therefore it says, "God opposes the proud but gives grace to the humble."

**Proverbs 3:34:** Toward the scorers he is scornful, but to the humble he gives favor.

**James 4:10:** Humble yourselves before the LORD, and he will exalt you.

**Revelation 3:20:** Behold, I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears my voice and opens the door, I will come in to him and eat with him, and he with me.

### Discussion Questions:

1. How are we tempted to be friends with the world? How should we live in this world as Christians?
2. How can we help one another towards daily faithfulness towards God?
3. Does the idea of God's jealousy for our affections disturb or comfort you? Why?
4. How does God's grace for His children empower us to follow Jesus?
5. Why is humility a necessary trait for the friend of God?