

James 4 “Favor to Humble”
October 20, 2024
James 4:1-12

James 4:1-12

What causes fights and quarrels among you? Don't they come from your desires that battle within you? 2 You desire but do not have, so you kill. You covet but you cannot get what you want, so you quarrel and fight. You do not have because you do not ask God. 3 When you ask, you do not receive, because you ask with wrong motives, that you may spend what you get on your pleasures.

4 You adulterous people, don't you know that friendship with the world means enmity against God? Therefore, anyone who chooses to be a friend of the world becomes an enemy of God. 5 Or do you think Scripture says without reason that he jealously longs for the spirit he has caused to dwell in us? 6 But he gives us more grace. That is why Scripture says:

“God opposes the proud
but shows favor to the humble.”

7 Submit yourselves, then, to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you. 8 Come near to God and he will come near to you. Wash your hands, you sinners, and purify your hearts, you double-minded. 9 Grieve, mourn and wail. Change your laughter to mourning and your joy to gloom. 10 Humble yourselves before the Lord, and he will lift you up.

11 Brothers and sisters, do not slander one another. Anyone who speaks against a brother or sister[d] or judges them speaks against the law and judges it. When you judge the law, you are not keeping it, but sitting in judgment on it. 12 There is only one Lawgiver and Judge, the one who is able to save and destroy. But you—who are you to judge your neighbor?

Where does division comes from?

James 4:1

What causes quarrels and what causes fights among you? Is it not this, that your passions are at war within you?

Passions.

The trap of comparison.

Prayerlessness.

Presumption.

James 4:4

4 You adulterous people, don't you know that friendship with the world means enmity against God? Therefore, anyone who chooses to be a friend of the world becomes an enemy of God.

James 4:5

5 Or do you think Scripture says without reason that he jealously longs for the spirit he has caused to dwell in us?

God is jealous.

God gives us more grace.

James 4:7-10

7 Submit yourselves, then, to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you. 8 Come near to God and he will come near to you. Wash your hands, you sinners, and purify your hearts, you double-minded. 9 Grieve, mourn and wail. Change your laughter to mourning and your joy to gloom. 10 Humble yourselves before the Lord, and he will lift you up.

The desire to be loved, valued and full of purpose is infinitely accomplished in Christ.

Matthew 23:12

12 Whoever exalts himself will be humbled, and whoever humbles himself will be exalted.

Life Group Discussion Questions

- What did God say to you through His Word during our Sunday morning gathering?
- How can the lack of prayer or the content of your prayers reveal something about your heart?
- What does it mean for a Christian to be a friend of the world?
- Discuss the idea that God gives the analogy of marriage to understand our relationship with Him? What is wonderful about it? What is scary? What is James trying to convey by using the term “adulteresses?”
- Read verses James 4:6-10. How is the section of Scripture meant to give us hope?
- Why is humility a key aspect of the life with share with God and others? When have you seen a good example of humility?
- Is there an area of your life in which you need “more grace”, more help from God? What would humbling yourself in this area look like?
- What is one way your Life Group can support and pray for you as you apply this passage to your life this week?