

James Small Group Guide 7

Two Pictures of Friendship *James 4:1–10 (ESV)*

¹ *What causes quarrels and what causes fights among you? Is it not this, that your passions are at war within you? ² You desire and do not have, so you murder. You covet 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 wrongly, to spend it on your passions. ⁴ You adulterous people! 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. 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"? ⁶ But he gives more grace. Therefore it says, "God opposes the proud but gives grace to the humble." ⁷ Submit yourselves 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 wretched and mourn and weep. Let your laughter be turned to mourning and your joy to gloom. ¹⁰ Humble yourselves before the Lord, and he will exalt you.*

OUTLINE

Friendship with the world (4:1-5)

1. comes from the sinful desires of the flesh,
2. is motivated by a longing for earthly pleasure,
3. and results in spiritual adultery against God.

Friendship with God (4:6-10)

1. comes from the gracious desire of God,
2. is motivated by a longing for eternal satisfaction,
3. and results in submission to the authority of God.

Resist the Devil Forcefully

Seek God Repentantly

Pursue Purity Holistically

Treat Sin Seriously

Questions for Discussion:

Explain what it means to be a friend of the world.

How do you see the three types of conflict from sin the world?
(Conflict with self, others, God)

What is God's role in keeping us from pursuing sin?

What is our role?

Practically speaking, what does it mean to submit to God and resist the Devil?

How would you define repentance for someone who has no Bible knowledge?