

First Baptist Church of Columbus
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Sermon Notes Outline for video posted July 4th
HAPPY BIRTHDAY AMERICA!

T I T L E: SPIRITUAL ADULTERY & FRIENDSHIP WITH THE WORLD

T E X T: James 4:4-10

I. SPIRITUAL ADULTERY IS AN EGREGIOUS OFFENSE TO THE LORD AND REFLECTS A FRIENDSHIP WITH THE WORLD THAT ALWAYS RESULTS IN OPPOSITION FROM GOD.

"...hostility to God" and "enemy of God" and verse 5 — Or do you think that the Scripture speaks to no purpose: "He jealously desires the Spirit which He has made to dwell in us"?

- A. Friendship with the world resulting in hostility toward God is not a matter of what a believer might feel, think, or argue in his defense about his friendship with the world but is a matter of what the word says about his relationship with the Lord while maintaining an adulterous friendship with the world.**

- B. A Christian's relationship with the Lord is as intimate as one's relationship is with his or her spouse in the bond of marriage, thus when a Christian commits spiritual adultery it brings great concern and heartache to God because His love for each Christian demands exclusive devotion. (His love for you is personal.)**

Deuteronomy 32:16 -- Deuteronomy 32:21 ---- Exodus 20:5 ---
- Exodus 34:14 ----

Zechariah 8:2

When it comes to allegiance to the Lord there can be no gray area in a believer's life.

C. Spiritual adultery is, to a certain extent, subtle in the sense that it is often contrary to what we may define as friendship with the world.

There is no evidence in this text that the early Christians were deliberately committing spiritual adultery but nevertheless were because of some of the behavior they were displaying before the world toward each other as well as the world.

Spiritual adultery is always a possibility in the life of a Christian because of the fallen nature of man which, at least occasionally if not often, leads to the temptation if not an outright tendency to imitate the world more often than Christ and His word.

But their tendency to imitate the world by **discriminating against people (2:1-13)**, by **speaking negatively of others (3:1-12)**, by **exhibiting "bitter envy" and "selfish ambition" (3:13-18)**, and **by pursuing their own destructive pleasures (4:1-3)** amounted to just that. James, as it were, wants to raise the stakes so that his readers see their compromising conduct for what it really is. God tolerates no rival.

When believers behave in a worldly manner, they demonstrate that, at that point, their allegiance is to the world rather than to God.

II. SPIRITUAL ADULTERY REGARDLESS OF HOW INGRAINED IT MAY BE IN OUR LIVES OR HOW DIFFICULT IT MAY BE TO OVERCOME IS NEVER BEYOND THE MAGNITUDE OF GOD'S GRACE TO FORGIVE AND ENABLE US TO BE EXCLUSIVELY DEVOTED TO HIM. VV 6-10

- A. Experiencing the magnitude of His grace begins with the willingness to swallow our pride, humble ourselves and seek His forgiveness.**

- B. Experiencing the magnitude of His grace also demands moral reform that involves outward conduct and inner desires.**

"cleanse your hands and purify your hearts..."

Psalm 24:3-4 ----

Biblical thought demands a fourfold cleansing. It demands a cleansing of the lips (Isaiah 6:5-6). It demands a cleansing of the hands (Psalm 24:4). It demands a cleansing of the heart (Psalm 73:13). It demands a cleansing of the mind (James 4:8). That is to say, the ethical demand of the Bible is that a person's words and deeds and emotions and thoughts should all be purified. Inwardly and outwardly, men and women must be clean, for only the pure in heart shall see God (Matthew 5:8).

Conclusion: Matthew 6:24 ---- "No one can serve two masters; for either he will hate the one and love the other, or he will be devoted to one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and wealth.