

# SPIRITUAL INFIDELITY

## *James 4:4-5*

**MAIN IDEA:** When a believer become a friend of the world system, he places himself in opposition to God.

6/25/17

### An Overview of the Book of James:

- *Pressing Problems for the Believer's Concern (James 1:1-18)*
- *Practical Principles for the Believer's Conduct (James 1:19-4:18)*
  - Concerning Obedience (1:19-27)
  - Concerning Partiality (2:1-13)
  - Concerning Good Works (2:14-26)
  - Concerning the Tongue (3:1-12)
  - Concerning Wisdom (3:13-18)
  - Concerning Worldliness (4:1-10)
    - | ✓ The Problem (4:1-5)
      - ❖ Displayed in Church Fights (4:1-3): affecting your relationship with others
      - ❖ Displayed in World Friendship (4:4-5): affecting your relationship with God
    - | ✓ The Solution (4:6-10)

## **I. WHAT YOUR PAST \_\_\_\_\_ USED TO BE**

### **A. You must \_\_\_\_\_ what the \_\_\_\_\_ is.**

- The world is not referring to \_\_\_\_\_ (cp. Rom. 1:20; John 1:10; 17:5).
- The world is not referring primarily to the \_\_\_\_\_ (cp. John 3:16).
- The world is referring to the world \_\_\_\_\_ organized under the control of \_\_\_\_\_ (cp. John 12:31; 14:30; II Cor. 4:4).

It is "the order or arrangement under which Satan has organized the world of unbelieving mankind upon his cosmic principles of force, greed, selfishness, ambition, and pleasure" (New Scofield Reference Bible, p. 1365).

### **B. You must \_\_\_\_\_ what your \_\_\_\_\_ with the world was.**

- Before you trusted in Christ as your Savior. . .
  - ✓ You were a \_\_\_\_\_ of the world (John 15:19).
  - ✓ You walked according to the \_\_\_\_\_ of the world (cp. Eph. 2:1-3).
  - ✓ You were a \_\_\_\_\_ of the world (cp. John 15:18-19; 17:14-16; I Jn 5:19).
- When you trusted in Christ as your Savior. . .
  - ✓ You were taken \_\_\_\_\_ of the world (cp. John 15:19; 17:14).
  - ✓ You are still \_\_\_\_\_ the world (cp. John 17:15; I Cor. 5:9-10).
  - ✓ You have been sent \_\_\_\_\_ the world (cp. John 17:18).
  - ✓ You are always opposed \_\_\_\_\_ the world (cp. Jn. 15:18; I Jn. 2:15-17).

## **II. WHAT YOUR PRESENT \_\_\_\_\_ SHOULD NOT BE (James 4:4)**

### **A. Don't be a \_\_\_\_\_ of the world (James 4:4).**

Don't allow the world to \_\_\_\_\_ your \_\_\_\_\_.

- This command seems to be the most \_\_\_\_\_ of the four . . . when you violate this command, the other \_\_\_\_\_ are sure to follow.
- Don't share your \_\_\_\_\_ with the enemy.
- Don't divide your \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_, and \_\_\_\_\_ between God and the world.
- Anything which steals your \_\_\_\_\_ from Christ is true \_\_\_\_\_.

### **B. Don't be \_\_\_\_\_ by the world (James 1:27).**

Don't allow the world to \_\_\_\_\_ your Christian \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_.

### **C. Don't be \_\_\_\_\_ to the world (Rom. 12:2).**

Don't allow the world to \_\_\_\_\_ you into its \_\_\_\_\_.

### **D. Don't \_\_\_\_\_ the world (I John 2:15).**

Don't have a \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ to the world.

### III. WHAT THE PROSPECTIVE \_\_\_\_\_ WILL BE (James 4:4-5)

#### A. *Spiritual* \_\_\_\_\_ (James 4:4a)

- Israel committed spiritual \_\_\_\_\_ when they followed \_\_\_\_\_: God was their \_\_\_\_\_, and they were \_\_\_\_\_ (Ezek. 16:8, 15, 30-33; 23:43; Jer. 3:1, 8-9, 14, 20; Hos. 4:12-13; 9:1).
- A \_\_\_\_\_ in this age can also commit spiritual adultery through being \_\_\_\_\_ to the Lord (Rom. 7:3-4; II Cor. 11:2; Eph. 5:25-27; Rev. 19:7).

#### B. *Ungodly* \_\_\_\_\_ (James 4:4b)

- The two terms used are direct \_\_\_\_\_ ... \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ are in stark contrast to one another (cp. Luke 23:12).
- The two sides presented are mutually \_\_\_\_\_ ... you can't be \_\_\_\_\_ at the \_\_\_\_\_ time (cp. Matt. 6:24; I John 2:15-17; Josh. 24:15; I Kings 18:21).
- The declared result is an assumed \_\_\_\_\_ ... he has established himself as an \_\_\_\_\_ of God (cp. Rom. 5:10).
- The proposed friendship is an intended \_\_\_\_\_ ... it is not only being the world's friend, but \_\_\_\_\_ to be so, that is condemned.

#### C. *Godly* \_\_\_\_\_ (James 4:5)

- This latter result deals with \_\_\_\_\_ part in the relationship, while the first two deal with \_\_\_\_\_ part.
- That friendship with the \_\_\_\_\_ and with \_\_\_\_\_ at the same time cannot coexist is supported by \_\_\_\_\_ (4:5a).
- The indwelling Holy Spirit yearns \_\_\_\_\_ for the \_\_\_\_\_ love, loyalty, and affection of His people (4:5b; cp. Ex. 20:5; Deut. 32:15-16).
- God \_\_\_\_\_ your total love and affection (cp. Matt. 22:36-38).

- *The world system is no longer that to which you belong, but a spiritual \_\_\_\_\_ bent on your destruction.*
- *You cannot be a friend of the world and a friend of God at the same time. . . you must make a \_\_\_\_\_.*
- *The same Spirit that yearns jealousy for you can empower you in areas of divided affections. . . \_\_\_\_\_ to Him.*

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## **I. WHAT YOUR PAST RELATIONSHIP USED TO BE**

### **A. You must identify *what the world is.***

- The world is not referring to *creation* (cp. Rom. 1:20; John 1:10; 17:5).
- The world is not referring primarily to the *people* (cp. John 3:16).
- The world is referring to the world *system* organized under the control of **Satan** (cp. John 12:31; 14:30; II Cor. 4:4).

It is "the order or arrangement under which Satan has organized the world of unbelieving mankind upon his cosmic principles of force, greed, selfishness, ambition, and pleasure" (New Scofield Reference Bible, p. 1365).

### **B. You must recognize *what your relationship with the world was.***

- Before you trusted in Christ as your Savior. . .
  - ✓ *You were a friend of the world (John 15:19).*
  - ✓ *You walked according to the course of the world (cp. Eph. 2:1-3).*
  - ✓ *You were a member of the world (cp. John 15:18-19; 17:14-16; I Jn 5:19).*
- When you trusted in Christ as your Savior. . .
  - ✓ *You were taken out of the world (cp. John 15:19; 17:14).*
  - ✓ *You are still in the world (cp. John 17:15; I Cor. 5:9-10).*
  - ✓ *You have been sent into the world (cp. John 17:18).*
  - ✓ *You are always opposed by the world (cp. Jn. 15:18; I Jn. 2:15-17).*

## **II. WHAT YOUR PRESENT RESPONSE SHOULD NOT BE (James 4:4)**

### **A. Don't be a friend of the world (James 4:4).**

Don't allow the world to *steal* your *affections*.

- This command seems to be the most *basic* of the four . . . when you violate this command, the other *three* are sure to follow.
- Don't share your *affections* with the enemy.
- Don't divide your *loyalty, allegiance, and affections* between God and the world.
- Anything which steals your *affections* from Christ is true *worldliness*.

### **B. Don't be spotted by the world (James 1:27).**

Don't allow the world to *stain* your Christian *life* and *testimony*.

### **C. Don't be conformed to the world (Rom. 12:2).**

Don't allow the world to *squeeze* you into its *mold*.

### **D. Don't love the world (I John 2:15).**

Don't have a *devotion* and *commitment* to the world.

### III. WHAT THE PROSPECTIVE RESULTS WILL BE (James 4:4-5)

#### A. *Spiritual adultery (James 4:4a)*

- Israel committed spiritual *adultery* when they followed *idols*: God was their *Husband* (Isa. 54:5), and they were *unfaithful* (Ezek. 16:8, 15, 30-33; 23:43; Jer. 3:1, 8-9, 14, 20; Hos. 4:12-13; 9:1).
- A *believer* in this age can also commit spiritual adultery through being *unfaithful* to the Lord (Rom. 7:3-4; II Cor. 11:2; Eph. 5:25-27; Rev. 19:7).

#### B. *Ungodly hostility (James 4:4b)*

- The two terms used are direct *opposites* . . . *friendship* and *hostility* are in stark contrast to one another (cp. Luke 23:12).
- The two sides presented are mutually *exclusive* . . . you can't be *both* at the *same* time (cp. Matt. 6:24; I John 2:15-17; Josh. 24:15; I Kings 18:21).
- The declared result is an assumed *position* . . . he has established himself as an *enemy* of God (cp. Rom. 5:10).
- The proposed friendship is an intended *desire* . . . it is not only being the world's friend, but *desiring* to be so, that is condemned.

#### C. *Godly jealousy (James 4:5)*

- This latter result deals with *God's* part in the relationship, while the first two deal with *man's* part.
- That friendship with the *world* and with *God* at the same time cannot coexist is supported by *Scripture* (4:5a).
- The indwelling Holy Spirit yearns *jealously* for the *undivided* love, loyalty, and affection of His people (4:5b; cp. Ex. 20:5; Deut. 32:15-16).
- God *demand*s your total love and affection (cp. Matt. 22:36-38).

- *The world system is no longer that to which you belong, but a spiritual enemy bent on your destruction.*
- *You cannot be a friend of the world and a friend of God at the same time. . . you must make a choice.*
- *The same Spirit that yearns jealousy for you can empower you in areas of divided affections. . . yield to Him.*

## **QUESTIONS TO PONDER AND DISCUSS:**

- How does the previous passage (3:13-18) relate to this passage (4:1-3)? What comparisons and contrasts do you see?
- Where is the true source of wars and fights, whether in nations, families, churches, or individuals (verse 1)? How is this demonstrated in specific situations?
- To what kind of desires is James referring? Are the desires of our hearts always selfish and evil? What makes the difference in classifying these desires?
- What are the results of the desires (verse 2)? Do we get what we want? What do we do if we don't get what we want?
- Are the results of not getting what we want always this dramatic (murder, fights, etc.)? What other consequences come in our lives and our relationships as a result of unfulfilled desires?
- What are the two reasons why our desires are often not fulfilled (verses 2b-3)?
- How does the first reason for not having (verse 2b) relate to what Jesus commanded in Matt. 7:7-11 and what Paul instructed in Phil. 4:6-7?
- Concerning the second reason, what does it mean to "ask amiss" (NKJV) (verse 3)? How does the last phrase in verse 2 amplify and clarify what is meant by asking amiss?
- How often do you check your motives in making requests to God? How do you determine whether your motive is right or wrong?
- What selfish desires in your own heart are creating conflicts in your life, whether in your own heart or in your relationship with others? What can you do to bring about peace where conflict has existed?
- How should your prayer life change in light of this passage (verses 2b-3)?

## **STUDY QUESTIONS FOR NEXT MESSAGE:**

Study James 4:4-5.

- What relationship does the previous passage (4:1-3) have to this passage (4:4-5)? What does friendship with the world have to do with selfish desires and interpersonal conflicts?
- How does James address these believers (verse 4)? Is this description to be taken literally? In what can it be true of believers?
- James uses two contrasting expressions in verse 4—friendship vs. hostility (enmity). Why is it true that friendship with the world is automatically hostility toward God? How does a friend of the world make himself an enemy of God?
- To what does the "world" refer? Is it referring primarily to the people in the world or to something else (cp. John 12:31; 16:11)?
- How does this stance toward the world (friendship) relate to other commands regarding how the believer should respond to the world (Rom. 12:2; Jas. 1:27; I John 2:15)? How you can be "in the world, but not of the world" (cp. John 17:11-16)?
- How do these verses relate to your relationship with others and with God? What steps do you need to take to make changes in both relationships, in light of this passage?
- What is the meaning of verse 5? Is it referring to the Holy Spirit or the human spirit? Who is demonstrating jealousy? How could God be jealous toward one who has been spiritually unfaithful? How does verse 5 relate to verse 4?