

TAKING RADICAL ACTION AGAINST SIN

James 4:8-10

MAIN IDEA: You must take radical action against your sin to enjoy a close relationship with God. 7/9/17

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)
 - ❖ What God Will Provide for the Believer (4:6a): Grace
 - ❖ How the Believer Must Respond to God (4:6b-10): 10 commands / 6 areas
 - Humility (4:6b, 10): the proper response to *self*; result: *He will give grace and lift you up.*
 - Submission (4:7a): the proper response to *God*
 - Resistance (4:7b): the proper response to *Satan*; result: *he will flee.*
 - Intimacy (4:8a): the proper response to *God*; result: *He will draw near.*
 - Cleansing (4:8b): the proper response to *sin*
 - Repentance (4:9): the proper response to *sin*

I. THE _____ MUST BE _____ (James 4:8a).

A. The _____ for the _____

- Selfish _____ (cp. Jas. 4:1-3)
- Friendship with the _____ (cp. Jas. 4:4)
- _____ in the heart (cp. Jas. 4:6)
- Unconfessed _____ (cp. Jas. 4:8b; Psalms 66:18; Isaiah 59:1-2; I John 1:9)

B. The _____ for the _____

- You are responsible for the _____ --you _____ away.
- You are responsible for the _____ --you must draw _____ (in _____ and _____ --cp. Isaiah 29:13). *Take the _____ in response to God's call!*

C. The _____ of the _____

- What God _____: He will draw _____ to you.
- Why God _____: He is ready to _____ (cp. Isaiah 55:6-7; Micah 7:18-19; Luke 15:20).

II. THE _____ MUST BE _____ (James 4:8b).

A. The _____ for drawing _____ to God (cp. James 4:8a) . . . it must be _____! _____ from sin is necessary to have _____ to God.

B. The _____ of your _____ before God . . . take your sin _____!

- _____: having _____ the mark
- _____: _____ in your affection and loyalty

C. The _____ to deal _____ with your sin . . . take _____ against it!

- _____ and _____ sin is ultimately _____ work (cp. I John 1:7, 9; Acts 15:8-9; Eph. 5:26; Tit. 2:14; Heb. 9:14).

- _____ with sin is immediately the _____ responsibility (cp. II Cor. 7:1; I Tim. 5:22; II Tim. 2:21; I Pet. 1:22; I John 3:3; Isa. 1:16).
 - ✓ *Cleanse your _____ . . . _____ cleansing in terms of your actions and deeds (cp. Job 17:9; I Tim. 2:8).*
 - ✓ *Purify your _____ . . . _____ cleansing of your entire inner life (cp. Prov. 4:23; Jer. 4:14).*

III. THE _____ MUST BE _____ (James 4:9).
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- A. The _____ for dealing with sin . . . genuine _____
 Repentance is change of _____ toward sin, resulting in change of _____.
- B. The _____ in dealing with sin . . . inward _____ displayed in outward _____
 - The _____ attitude: being _____ . . . feeling miserable, wretched, ashamed
 - The _____ evidence
 - ✓ _____: *grieving (cp. Matt. 5:4; Lk. 6:25; I Cor.5:2; Rev.18:15,19)*
 - ✓ _____: *crying (cp. Matt.26:75; Lk.6:25; 19:41; Jas.5:1; Rev.18:9,11,15,19)*
- C. The _____ of _____ . . . what has been a source of _____ should become a source of _____.
 - Let your _____ be turned to _____. . . _____-seeking turned to _____ over sin.
 - Let your _____ be turned to _____. . . sinful _____ turned to godly _____.

- *Are you as close to God as you once were? What steps do you need to take to draw near to Him?*
- *Has sin hindered your closeness to God? How do you plan to cleanse yourself inwardly and outwardly?*
- *Which areas of sinful pleasure need to be changed into godly sorrow over sin? Undergo a delight reversal.*

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I. THE DISTANCE MUST BE RECTIFIED (James 4:8a).

A. The reason for the distance

- ***Selfish desires*** (cp. Jas. 4:1-3)
- ***Friendship with the world*** (cp. Jas. 4:4)
- ***Pride*** in the heart (cp. Jas. 4:6)
- ***Unconfessed sin*** (cp. Jas. 4:8b; Psalms 66:18; Isaiah 59:1-2; I John 1:9)

B. The responsibility for the change

- You are responsible for the ***departure***--you *moved away*.
- You are responsible for the ***return***--you must draw *near* (in *worship* and *fellowship*--cp. Isaiah 29:13). ***Take the initiative in response to God's call!***

C. The result of the action

- What God ***promises***: He will draw *near* to you.
- Why God ***responds***: He is ready to ***forgive*** (cp. Isaiah 55:6-7; Micah 7:18-19; Luke 15:20).

II. THE DEFILEMENT MUST BE REMOVED (James 4:8b).

A. The requirement for drawing near to God (cp. Jas. 4:8a) . . . it must be done! ***Cleansing from sin is necessary to have closeness to God.***

B. The recognition of your sinfulness before God . . . take your sin seriously!

- ***Sinners***: having *missed* the mark
- ***Double-minded***: *divided* in your affection and loyalty

C. The responsibility to deal directly with your sin . . . take action against it!

- ***Cleansing*** and ***purifying*** sin is ultimately ***God's work*** (cp. I John 1:7, 9; Acts 15:8-9; Eph. 5:26; Tit. 2:14; Heb. 9:14).

- **Dealing with sin is immediately the *believer's* responsibility (cp. II Cor. 7:1; I Tim. 5:22; II Tim. 2:21; I Pet. 1:22; I John 3:3; Isa. 1:16).**
 - ✓ **Cleanse your hands . . . outward cleansing in terms of your actions and deeds (cp. Job 17:9; I Tim. 2:8).**
 - ✓ **Purify your hearts . . . inward cleansing of your entire inner life (cp. Prov. 4:23; Jer. 4:14).**

III. **THE DELIGHT MUST BE REVERSED (James 4:9).**

A. The requirement for dealing with sin . . . genuine repentance

Repentance is change of *mind* toward sin, resulting in change of *action*.

B. The responsibility in dealing with sin . . . inward attitude displayed in outward action

- **The *inward* attitude: being *afflicted* . . . feeling miserable, wretched, ashamed**
- **The *outward* evidence**
 - ✓ Mourning: *grieving* (cp. Matt. 5:4; Lk. 6:25; I Cor. 5:2; Rev. 18:15,19)
 - ✓ Weeping: *crying* (cp. Matt. 26:75; Lk. 6:25; 19:41; Jas. 5:1; Rev. 18:9,11,15,19)

C. The reversal of delight . . . what has been a source of pleasure should become a source of sorrow.

- **Let your laughter be turned to mourning. . . pleasure-seeking turned to grieving over sin.**
- **Let your joy be turned to gloom. . . sinful thrills turned to godly sorrow.**
- **Are you as close to God as you once were? What steps do you need to take to draw near to Him?**
- **Has sin hindered your closeness to God? How do you plan to cleanse yourself inwardly and outwardly?**
- **Which areas of sinful pleasure need to be changed into godly sorrow over sin? Undergo a delight reversal.**