



August 17, 2025 | Jeff Almquist

Series: James

Sermon Title: Friend or Foe

Main Scripture: James 4:4-6

OUTLINE

1. Divided Loyalty is an act of Adultery.
2. Friendship with the world makes an enemy of God.
3. God jealously yearns for our love even though our human nature is filled with envy.
4. God's grace is sufficient to overcome our worldly desires.
5. God's grace is immeasurable and available to the humble.

DISCUSSION GUIDE

Group Leader: See if your group has reviewed the latest newsletter and briefly skim together if needed. [NEWSLETTER ARCHIVE](#)

1. Divided Loyalty is an act of Adultery.
 1. How comfortable are you with the scripture in Matthew 5:10 that says we are to love the Lord our God more than our parents and our children? Why do you think this is God's expectation? Do you think parents/children are loved more or less if our lives are devoted to putting God first in all things?
 2. Why do you think James addresses some in his audience as "adulterers"? Why specifically does he use that term?
2. Friendship with the world makes an enemy of God.
 1. What is your response when you run into scripture that does not make sense, or seems contrary to what you have been taught (or believe)?

2. Are you able to understand how it is possible that God loves everyone, but yet the bible says that unbelievers are enemies of God?
 1. Is it clear to you that while we are born enemies of God as a result of Adam's sin (original sin), a child would go to heaven if they were to die before they reach the age of accountability (i.e. when they are old enough to understand who God is and that He asks for each of us to decide who/what we will worship)?
3. Who has the responsibility to ensure you understand the truths of the bible?
4. The Carrot vs the Stick analogy was mentioned in the sermon. Is there a place for both methods of motivation and encouragement? Which are you most likely to act upon?
3. God jealously yearns for our love even though our human nature is filled with envy.
 1. Are you comfortable with the concept that our God is a jealous God? Why or why not?
 1. Would you rather live under a jealous God or a God that does not jealously desire for your first love and attention?
4. God's grace is sufficient to overcome our worldly desires.
 1. In James 4:6, why is it most important that God gives more grace or gives a greater grace?
 2. What value do apply to God's Grace?
 1. Have you ever thought about the greatness of God's grace the way Paul Washer describes it, *"God's grace is so immense and full of wonder that even eternity will not be long enough to comprehend it or to offer Him sufficient praise for it!"*?
 3. What is the most important goal in your life?
 1. Does achieving that goal benefit everything that you care about? Why or why not?
5. God's grace is immeasurable and available to the humble.
 1. If God's grace is so wonderful and beyond comprehension, why isn't it given to everyone?
 2. James 4:6 says *"God opposes the proud but gives grace to the humble"*. Do you agree that salvation is only available to the humble? Why or why not?

3. Do you have any divided loyalties today? Are you prioritizing the values of the world system over what God has called you to do for His kingdom?
4. Are you comfortable with your answer to the question, "Am I a friend of God, or am I a friend of the world?"