

## *Valley Bible Church – Sermon Notes*

### **Sermon Notes for January 1-2, 2000**

#### **"Friendship with the World"**

**Dale Whitehead**

**James 4:1-6**

One of the ways we can know if we have become a friend of the world is if our various relationships are characterized by turmoil (James 4:1).

Where might this struggle between the influence of the world and the word of God manifest itself in our relationship with others?

The world tolerates the anger of man, the scriptures do not (Ephesians 4:31).

The world rejects the idea of showing unconditional kindness, the scriptures do not (Ephesians 4:32).

A second way that we can know if we have become a friend of the world is if we find ourselves in conflict with ourselves.

James identifies for us three causes of internal conflict.

The first cause is uncontrolled desire.

"Pleasure" (hedonon from which we get the word hedonist) denotes the enjoyment derived from the fulfillment of one's desires or, as here, the craving for the pleasure itself.

The word translated "that wage war" (strateuomenon) depicts these ungodly pleasures as soldiers carrying on a military campaign aimed at securing the satisfaction of their cravings. When James speaks of "members" he is not talking about "church members" but to the mental and physical elements of the body, which contain man's fallen flesh or humanness.

Warfare with ungodly pleasures in the unsaved.

The unsaved work at rejecting God and His standards of righteousness (Romans 1:18-19).

But no matter how hard the unsaved may try to suppress the awareness of sin they will fail. In that failure they will experience guilt and will therefore have an awareness of a personal battle with evil desires (Romans 2:14-15).

Warfare with ungodly pleasures in the saved.

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Though the saved have in fact been set free from sin in the inner man so that we no longer are repressing the truth in unrighteousness and though we have in fact been set free from sin in the inner man so that we now enjoy an appetite for righteousness we still are in possession of these unredeemed bodies that we inherited from Adam. Therefore we will continue to battle the sin that inhabits the members of our body (Romans 7:14-23).

Quite in contrast with the begrudging and doomed battle that the unsaved are fighting with their evil desires the spirited and intense battle for righteousness being conducted by the truly saved will be triumphant (Romans 7:24-25).