

Valley Bible Church – Sermon Notes

Sermon Notes for January 8-9, 2000

"Friendship with the World"

Dale Whitehead

James 4:1-6

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

We can know if we have become a friend of the world if we find ourselves in conflict with ourselves (James 4:1-4).

James identifies for us three causes of internal conflict.

The first cause is uncontrolled desire (James 4:1).

The second cause is unfulfilled desire (James 4:2).

Successfully feeding our uncontrolled desires certainly can contribute to our conflict with others but being successful in feeding our uncontrolled desires can be even more problematic.

The word "lust" (epithumeo) in this context refers to an inordinate, misdirected, and sinful desire.

James is using the word "murder" (phoneuo) figuratively (1 John 3:15).

When the lusting person cannot achieve his desired goal, whether for reputation, prestige, sexual gratification, money, power, rest, success, possessions, the affection of another person, or whatever the result is often catastrophic to others and are always destructive to oneself (Genesis 19).

The word "envious" (zeloo) connotes an even stronger, more compelling feeling of desire than the word "lust" (epithumeo). It is the word from which we get "zealous" and "zealot."