

Valley Bible Church – Sermon Notes

Sermon Notes for February 19-20, 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).

Turmoil in our relationship with others (James 4:1)

Turmoil in our relationship with ourselves (James 4:2-3)

Turmoil in our relationship with the Lord (James 4:4-6)

Turmoil that professing believers experience with the Lord as they become contaminated by the world is seen in three different areas.

Hostility toward God

James is not talking about sexual adultery but spiritual adultery which is commonly used in the Old Testament and Gospel periods to refer to the unfaithfulness of the nation of Israel.

Spiritual adultery in the Old Testament (Jeremiah 3:8; Ezekiel 16:32, Hosea 1:2).

Worship of idols was the primary cause for the charge of spiritual adultery against Israel by the prophets on behalf of the Lord (Ezekiel 16:6-22).

Spiritual adultery in the Gospel period (Matthew 12:39, 16:4). Worship of human traditions was the primary cause of spiritual adultery in the gospel period.

Christ charged most of the Jews, even those who were religious, with spiritual adultery because even though they had turned away from idols, they bowed themselves to human traditions rather than to the Lord and His Word.

Spiritual adultery in Church age (James 4:4-6).

The noun "friendship" (PHILIA) occurs only here in the New Testament, but the kindred word "friend" (PHILOS) is common; both come from the common verb phieo which means "to love, to have affection for."

The "world" (KOSMOS) does not refer to the physical earth or universe but rather to the man-centered, Satan-directed system of this present age which has as its central aim self-enjoyment and self-aggrandizement in disregard of or in open rebellion against God.