

Valley Bible Church – Sermon Notes

Sermon Notes for February 26-27, 2000

Friendship with the World

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 (V. 1)

Turmoil in our relationship with ourselves (VV. 2-3)

Turmoil in our relationship with Lord (VV. 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 (V.4)

Those who choose to persist in their flirtatious and adulterous relationship with the world are in effect declaring themselves enemies of God.

To persist in choosing a flirtatious and adulterous relationship with the world identifies us as an enemy of God and therefore identifies us as unsaved (Rom. 5:9-11).

Disregard for Scripture (V. 5)

Professing Christians who continue to flirt with the world are not only acting hostile but also choosing to ignore, to disregard what the scriptures teach about the Lord's jealousy.

James probably is referring to the general theme of God's jealousy as it is expressed in various places in the Old Testament when he says, "the scripture speaks" (Exod. 20:4,5; 34:14; Zech. 8:2).

The reference to the "spirit" is a reference to the Holy Spirit rather than to the human spirit because it best fits with the issue of hostility toward God which was introduced in V. 4. Those who are flirting with the world are acting hostile toward the Lord because they are totally disregarding the Word and what the Word says about the Lord's jealousy.

The scriptures are clear the Lord is a jealous God. And when the Spirit comes into our lives He will not sit there unmoved by our flirtatious indiscretions (V. 5)

Understanding that the Holy Spirit's jealousy for us is what is meant in this passage opens a heart changing truth to us: even when we sin we are greatly loved, for jealousy is an essential element of true love.