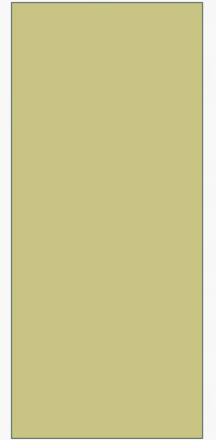


FRIEND OR ENEMY?



JAMES 4:1-12



VERSE 1

- **Pedagogy—answering a question with a question**
- **Fights/quarrels/wars—conflict source**
- **Warring passions/desires in your members? Individually or collectively?**
- **What kind of church conflict is James seeing that needs addressed?**



VERSE 2



- **Desire, kill, covet, fight, quarrel**
- **Imagine this setting!**
- **Do not have, not able to obtain**
- **You do not ask**
- **Think of how much we miss all because we do not ask!**
- **“Ask” here assumes in the form of some petitionary prayer**

VERSE 3



- You ask, do not receive
- The issue of unanswered prayer
- You ask “evil-ly” or wrongly
- In order that you might spend it in your pleasures (hedonism)
- Titus 3:3; 2 Peter 2:13; Luke 8:14

VERSE 4



- **Vocative form=adulteresses!**
- **Is this literal or figurative?**
- **Do you not know?...basic info**
- **Friendship of the world**
- **Is hostility of (toward) God**
- **All implies covenant relationship**

VERSE 5



- Or do you think that the Scripture says in vain (purpose, relevance)
- “With envy yearns the s/Spirit that he has made to dwell in us.”
- What Scripture?
- Gist of Exodus 20:5 & 34:14

VERSE 6



- **But, however, He gives greater grace**
- **Wherefore (it) says:**
- **God opposes the proud**
- **He gives grace to the humble**
- **Twice emphasizes that God gives grace**

VERSE 7



- Submit therefore (answer) to God;
1 Peter 2:13; 1 Peter 5:5
- Resist the devil
- He will flee
- How do we resist?
- Think of Jesus' temptation! Implicit here

VERSE 8



- Draw near to God
- He will draw near
- Notice reciprocal divine movement
- How do we draw near?
- How does God draw near?
- Cleanse & purify (actions and heart)
- Double-minded (1:8) Problem?

VERSE 9



- Be grieved, mourn, weep
- Either context or result of cleansing and purifying
- Let laughter=turned to mourning
- Let joy=turned to heaviness
- New awareness of inner depth of repentance and renewal

VERSE 10



- **Humble yourselves, allow yourselves to be made low**
- **He will exalt and raise you up**
- **“He mocks proud mockers but shows favor to the humble and oppressed.” (Prov. 3:34) Matt. 23:12; Luke 14:11; 18:14;**
- **Phil. 2:5-11; 1 Peter 5:6**

VERSE 11



- Don't speak against "one another"
- Speak against the law, judge it
- Not a doer (proper kind of doing), but a judge
- High view of the (moral) law in James
- Presumably the ethical dimensions

VERSE 12



- **There is (only) one lawgiver and judge—sin to take God’s part!**
- **The who is able to save and destroy, i.e., the Savior and the Destroyer**
- **Judging your neighbor**
- **What does it mean to “speak against” your neighbor?**

“SPEAK AGAINST”

(KATALALEITE)



- Slander
- Harsh and unkind
- Forbids practice already going on
- In the habit of criticizing, slandering, speaking harshly
- “Speak for”—good message of love