

Submitting to God

Series: Faith That Works

November 8, 2015

Introduction

We know the devastating effects a mistress can have on a marriage, but many times we do not understand the devastation that happens when we claim to love Jesus while embracing the world in our arms. James characterizes this adultery as friendship with the world and is hostility towards God.

Discussion Questions

1. Have you ever known someone who seemed to be constantly in conflict with other people? If you asked a quarrelsome person what caused him to be quarrelsome, what would his response likely be?
2. In 4:4-10, James characterizes the behaviors of 4:1-3 as friendship with the world. How would you define "worldliness"? What do you think it means to have "friendship with the world"?
3. In 4:4, why do you think James uses the term "adulterous" to describe people who practice friendship toward the world?
4. In 4:5, of what is the spirit intensely envious? Why?
5. Can we love both God and the world? What happens if we try to love both? (1 John 2:15-16, also Matthew 6:24)
6. How can we avoid loving the world? (James 4:6, Proverbs 3:34)
7. What is the promise God gives in verses 6 & 7? How does that give someone hope?
8. When we sin, how do verses 8-10 teach us to make things right, then refocus?

Conclusion

Prayer. Thank Him for Christ's submission unto death. Bless Him for Christ's exaltation. Ask God to show you where you have been double-minded in your allegiances. Ask Him to give you single-mindedness, focused on friendship with God rather than with the world. Confess to Him any areas of worldly behavior in your life where you are not in submission to Him. Thank Him that "he who is in you is greater than he who is in the world." (1 John 4:4)