

James 4

I. Dissension in the Church (1-3).

A. Cause – The desire for hedonistic pleasure – the flesh
(1 Pe.2:11-12; Ro.7:14ff).

B. Result.

1. Kill – words and attitudes (Mt.5:21-22).
2. Unsatisfactory prayer.
 - a. Think they are self-sufficient so don't ask.
 - b. Ask for the wrong motives.

II. Compromise with the world (4-10).

A. Friendship with the world is enmity with God (4-6).

1. Adulterous people (OT symbol of apostasy).
2. God's grace is sufficient to overcome (1 Co. 10:13).
 - a. God opposes the proud.
 - b. God helps the humble (Lk. 18: 9-14).

B. Solution (7-8a).

1. Submit to God.
2. Resist the devil.
 - a. Aorist tense – take your stand now.
 - b. He will flee.
3. Draw near to God.

C. Need for repentance (8b-10).

1. Wash hands – symbol of cleansing.
2. Purify hearts.
 - a. Make the symbol real.
 - b. Double minded wants to live in both worlds.
3. Total sorrow for sin.
 - a. Series of aorist tenses show the urgent need.
 - b. Godly sorrow (2 Co. 7:10).
 - c. A light attitude toward sin cannot bring true repentance (cf. Is.6:5).
4. Humility before God.

III. Backbiting and judging (11-12)

- A. Stop!
- B. Gossip is judging.
 1. Judging the person.
 2. Judging the law (disobedience to God's law is saying it doesn't apply to me).
- C. God is both lawgiver and judge.
- D. "Who are you?" – stress on "you" shows contempt.
- E. Stay in the Scripture (Ro. 4:6).

IV. The need to depend on God (13-16).

- A. The presumptuous man.

B. Humility and dependence of God (cf. Mi. 6:8).

V. Conclusion (17).

A. "Therefore" in Greek.

B. If you know and don't do, you are accountable. (Jo. 13:17).