

## Sermon Devotionals James 4:1-6

**Monday:** James has been contrasting 'dead' faith with 'living' faith. The tests have been: Ch.1-how you respond to trials, temptations; how you react to the Word of God; do you care for those in need. Ch.2: do you treat people with partiality; are your good works evident. In Ch.3 it's the tongue test because the mouth tells what's in the heart; then, what sort of wisdom do you show. Read through 4:1-6. Mark *conflicts*(and all synonyms). Make a list of the 'you'(s) and what is said about each. Who do you think James is talking to here? (Note: the word 'members' in v.1 is not referring to church membership. The word is *melos*—your flesh, body parts.)

**Tuesday:** This passage is using very strong, violent 'war' language. In v.1,2 and 4, list the 3 areas of conflict named here. Then mark the phrase 'friend of the world'; mark the word *enemy*(and synonyms). Note: the word world doesn't mean the earth/globe/planet. It refers to the godless, Satan-directed system of values, morals, and ethics that are in direct opposition to God, the Bible, and Christians. The 'world' is dedicated to SELF-glory(pride). How would you describe the situation in the church James is writing to? What is the source of conflict? The phrase *self-entitlement* is heard very often today. Does that relate to this passage? How?

**Wednesday:** Look up the following and list/note what you learn about the enemies of God.

Nahum 1:2 Rom.5:10,8:5-9 1Cor. 15:25 Phil.3:18 Col.1:21

**Thursday:** Look up the following and list/note what you learn about friendship with God and the relationship between the 'world' and the one with living faith.

James 2:23 John 15:14-15, 17:14 1Cor.2:12 2Cor.6:14 1John 2:15

Note: The word *love* in this passage means a determined affection, strong feeling for, a joyful embracing of..

Is it possible for a believer to have love for the world as a lifestyle? What does Scripture say?

**Friday:** Mark the word *proud* in v. 6. That's the dominant sin in the system of the world. Look up the following: Is.2:12,13:11 Hosea 13:6 Hab.2:4 1Peter 5:5

Consider: Are you an enemy or friend of God? What has this passage taught you about the source of conflict in the church? How will it change the way you pray for this local church?

**"To constitute oneself an enemy of God is to remain in spiritual death and grow more fit daily for eternal death, to have the almighty king of the universe as your foe." Robert Johnson**