

James 4:4, 5

A Matter of Affections

Loyalty and love ...

I. A Question of Fidelity

- A. Adultery
- B. Faithfulness

II. The Issue of Allegiance

- A. Alliances
- B. Enmity
- C. Loyalty

III. Rival Relationships

- A. Passing World
- B. Eternal God

... for our jealous God.

Children, Listen ...

1. Can you complete this command? You shall _____ the Lord your God with all your _____, mind, soul and strength.
2. Can you complete this command? You shall have _____ other _____ before me.
3. Why is God worthy of all of our love and devotion?
4. We usually think of jealousy as a bad thing but God is only good and called jealous! Why is God's kind of jealousy for us good?

No Competition

James uses some pretty strong language to drive home the fact that believers are to be no more of this world order than Jesus was. (John 17:14) That is not to say that we are so heavenly minded that we are not earthly good! We are to be productive in our labors, engaged in our societies and we are to enjoy the good things God has provided for us in life. With that said we must constantly remind ourselves that not only are we to hold on to the passing things of this world loosely, but we are to forsake the things of this world that compete for our affections for God. Our God is jealous for us in the most pure, holy and righteous fashion. He is jealous for our wholehearted devotion and our unbending allegiance. May we be purged of anything that smacks of spiritual adultery or rebellious enmity and instead be filled with an ever deepening passion for Him and a full devotion to His Kingdom.