

“Watch Out For Worldliness”
James 4:4

Introduction:

1. For The Last Several Sundays:
 - We Have Looked At:
 - The World As:
 - One Of Three Main Enemies:
 - That War Against Our Souls!
 - Now - The World:
 - That We Need To Be Concerned With:
 - Is Not Primarily:
 - The Physical World!
 - Which Was Created By God:
 - And Even Declared By God To Be:
 - “Very Good” In Genesis 1:31!
 - Nor Is It Primarily:
 - The People Of This World!
 - Who Were Also Created By God:
 - In His Own Image & Likeness!
2. No - The World That:
 - We Are Warned Against Can Be Described As:
 - The “Invisible, Spiritual System That Is Not Of God, That Does Not Operate For The Glory Of God, (And) That Is Not God-Centered In Its Approach!” (Dr. Scott Christmas)
 - Of Course - The World System:
 - Makes Use This Physical Things Of This World, As Well As The People Of The World In Their Cursed & Fallen Natures!
 - But - Ultimately:
 - The World Is What:
 - The Prince Of This World - The Devil - Uses To:
 - Appeal To Our Appetites & Affections & Ambitions:
 - In Order To Draw Us Further Away From:
 - God & His Will!
3. Tonight, Though:
 - After Seeing Just How Serious:
 - Of A Threat The World:
 - Can Be - We Are Going To Turn To:
 - One Of The Major Problems That:
 - Christians Often Have:
 - With This World!
 - And That Problem Is:
 - Worldliness!
 - Charles Spurgeon - That Old “Prince Of Preachers” From London In The Late 1800's Century:
 - Once Said - “Put Your Finger On Any Prosperous Page In The Church’s History, And I Will Find A Little Marginal Note Reading Thus: ‘In This Age Men Could Readily See Where The Church Began And Where The World Ended!’”
 - Of Course:
 - Any Truly “Prosperous Page” Of Church History:
 - Would Be Prosperity:
 - From God’s Perspective & Not Man’s!
 - A Spiritual Prosperity!
 - And - True Prosperity:
 - For The Church As A Whole - And:
 - For Christians In Particular:
 - Would Express Itself In A Difference, Distinction, And Separation From The World!
4. Could This Be Said:
 - Of The Church Today?
 - That People Can See:

- Where The Church Begins & Where The World Ends?
 - But - Don't Just Look *Out There*:
 - To Answer This Question!
 - Look *In Here*!
 - Into *This Church* - And:
 - Into *Your Own Heart & Life*!
- Can The People Around Us / You:
 - "Readily See Where The Church Begins And Where The World Ends?"
 - If Not - Spurgeon Continued:
 - "Never Were There Good Times When The Church And The World Were Joined In Marriage With One Another! The More The Church Is Distinct From The World In Her Acts And In Her Maxims, The More True Is Her Testimony For Christ, And The More Potent Is Her Witness Against Sin!"
- And This Is Why:
 - When It Comes To This World:
 - We Need To:
 - Watch Out For Worldliness!
 - But - What Is Worldliness?
- 5. Let's Turn In Our Bibles Tonight:
 - To James 4:4:
 - Where James Gives Us A Good Explanation:
 - Of Worldliness!
 - Because - It Is Here That He Writes:
 - "Ye adulterers and adulteresses, know ye not that the friendship of the world is enmity with God? whosoever therefore will be a friend of the world is the enemy of God!"
 - Now - We've Already Seen:
 - From 1 John - That:
 - We Are Not To:
 - *Love* The World, Neither The Things:
 - That Are In The World!
 - And - From Romans:
 - We Learned That:
 - We Are Not To Be:
 - *Conformed* To This World!
 - But Here - We Are Told:
 - That We Are Not Even To Be:
 - *Friends* With The World!
 - And This:
 - "Friendship Of The World" Can Also Be Called:
 - Worldliness!
 - And - There Are Three Truths:
 - About Worldliness:
 - That We Can Glean From:
 - This Verse Tonight!
 - That Should Help Us To Better:
 - Watch Out For Worldliness:
 - In Our Own Lives & Church!
- * And - The First Truth Is:
 1. ***A Shocking Truth About Worldliness!***
 - And That Is What We Find:
 - In James' Address In The First Part Of This Verse!
 - Where - To Christians - To The Church:
 - To His Own "Brethren" Who Have:
 - "The Faith Of Our Lord Jesus Christ!" (2:1)
 - He Calls Them:
 - "Ye Adulterers And Adulteresses!"
 - Or - Other Translations:

- “You Adulterous People!”
- Now - This Kind Of Address:
 - Was Meant To Shock The Senses:
 - Of Those To Whom:
 - James Was Writing!
 - And - It Should Do The Same Thing:
 - To Us!
- Because - At Its Root:
 - Worldliness Is:
 - Spiritually - What Adultery Is:
 - Physically!
 - It Is Tantamount To:
 - Unfaithfulness!
 - “Cheating” - As It Is Put Today!
 - Because - Whereas:
 - Adultery Is:
 - Unfaithfulness:
 - To One’s Spouse:
 - In Marriage!
 - Worldliness Is:
 - Unfaithfulness:
 - To God!
 - And - One Of The Main Ways:
 - That This Worldliness & Unfaithfulness:
 - Can Be Seen Is In:
 - The Issue That James Addresses Here:
 - In James 4 - Which Is:
 - The Sin Of Covetousness!
 - This Is Why:
 - In 4:1-3 & 5 - He Wrote:
 - “From whence come wars and fightings among you? come they not hence, even of your lusts that war in your members? / Ye lust, and have not: ye kill, and desire to have, and cannot obtain: ye fight and war, yet ye have not, because ye ask not. / Ye ask, and receive not, because ye ask amiss, that ye may consume it upon your lusts. / Do ye think that the scripture saith in vain, The spirit that dwelleth in us lusteth to envy?”
 - Matthew Henry Writes This:
 - About These Verses:
 - “Covetousness . . . Is Here Called Adultery; It Is A Forsaking Of Him To Whom We Are Devoted And Espoused, To Cleave To Other Things!”
 - And - As We Will See:
 - This Is The Very Heart Of Worldliness As Well!
 - And So - This Is Why:
 - We Need To Watch Out For Worldliness!
 - Because It Is Spiritual Adultery!
 - It Is An Act Of Unfaithfulness:
 - To Our Loving & Faithful God!
 - But - This Leads Us To:
 - A Second Truth - That Is:

2. *A Subtle Truth About Worldliness!*

- Again - 4:4:
 - “Know Ye Not That The Friendship Of The World Is Enmity With God?”
 - James Puts This As Something That:
 - All Christians & Churches:
 - Should Know & Understand:
 - But Often Don’t!
 - He Writes - “Know Ye Not?”
 - Because - All Too Often:
 - We Don’t - Or - We Forget:

- Just How Subtle Worldliness Can Be!
- And - What Is Worldliness?
 - “Friendship Of The World!”
 - Of Course - We’ve Already Looked At:
 - What The World Is!
 - But - What Is:
 - “Friendship?”
- Think About The “Friends” You Have:
 - In Your Own Life!
 - There Are Various Things That:
 - Can Bring About Friendship!
 - You Like The Same Things!
 - You Pursue After The Same Goals!
 - You Have The Same Interests!
 - And - Often - Friends:
 - Can Adopt Certain Manners & Customs:
 - That Deepen That Likeness & Friendship!
- And - Often In A Subtle Way:
 - This Can Happen Between:
 - A Christian & The World!
 - So - Worldliness Is A:
 - Friendship That Interferes With:
 - Your Friendship:
 - With God!
 - Worldliness Is An:
 - Alliance With This World:
 - And Its Course, Cares, Comprehension, And Culture:
 - That Interferes With Your Love To The Lord & Your Likeness To The Lord!
 - I Like John’ Gills Explanation Of:
 - “Friendship With The World” In His Commentary On James - Which Is A Good Definition For Worldliness Itself:
 - It Is - “An Immoderate Love For The Good Things Of The World, And A Prevailing Desire After The Evil Things Of It, And A Delight In The Company And Conversation Of The Men Of The World, And A Conformity To, And Compliance With, The Sinful Manners And Customs Of The World!”
 - Now - If You Look At This As A Description:
 - Of Worldliness - You Can See:
 - Just How Subtle It Can Be!
 - Because - It Can Start Out With Just A Casual:
- Diversion With The World!
 - This Is What Gill Means When He Says:
 - “An Immoderate Love For The Good Things Of The World!”
 - “Immoderate” - Excessive!
 - “All Things In Moderation!”
 - Including The “Good Things Of The World!”
 - Though It Is True That:
 - God “Giveth Us Richly All Things To Enjoy!” (1 Timothy 6:17)
 - It Is Also True That:
 - We Can Misuse Those “Good Things” Of Creation To The Point That:
 - They Distract Us From The Creator Himself!
 - And - When This Happens:
 - It Can Lead To More & More:
- Desire For The World!
 - Which Is What Gill Describes As:
 - “A Prevailing Desire After The Evil Things Of It!”
 - Because - Even The “Good Things” Of Creation Can Bring Out:
 - The Fallen Lusts Of Our Hearts!
 - As We’ve Seen Already:
 - The World Is Good At Trying:

- To Capture Our Appetites!
- To Captivate Our Affections! And:
- To Cultivate Our Ambitions:
 - All For Itself!
- And - If We Do Not Guard Our Hearts & Desires:
 - From This Kind Of Worldliness:
 - It Can Lead To More & More:
- Delight In The World!
 - Which Is What Gill Describes As:
 - “A Delight In The Company And Conversation Of The Men Of The World!”
 - And This Happens When:
 - We Have More In Common With:
 - Unbelievers Than With:
 - Believers!
 - And More In Common With:
 - The World Than With:
 - The Church!
 - This Does Not Mean That:
 - We Can’t Have Friends That:
 - Are Unbelievers - But:
 - As Amos 3:3 Reminds Us - “Can Two Walk Together, Except They Be Agreed?”
 - You See - A Friend Of The World:
 - Will Start To Be More Like:
 - The World & The Worldlings:
 - In It!
 - But - A Friend Of God:
 - Will Continue To Become:
 - More Like God Himself!
 - Even In Our Delights!
 - But - When We Delight More:
 - In The Things Of The World - Than:
 - In The Things Of God:
 - It Will Lead To More & More:
 - Devotion To The World!
 - Even - As Gill Describes:
 - “A Conformity To, And Compliance With, The Sinful Manners And Customs Of The World!”
 - There Is A Definite:
 - Progression:
 - In This Kind Of Worldly Friendship:
 - That Will Bring Us More In Line:
 - With The World Than With The Lord!
 - And - This Is Why:
 - We Need To Purposefully & Intentionally:
 - Watch Out For Worldliness:
 - In Our Own Lives & Hearts!
 - Because:
 - 4:4 - “The Friendship Of The World Is Enmity With God!”
 - But - This Leads Us To See:

3. *A Sad Truth About Worldliness!*

- Also From 4:4 - And That Is:
 - “Whosoever Therefore Will Be A Friend Of The World Is The Enemy Of God!”
 - Again - James Is Writing Primarily To:
 - Christians - And Here:
 - He Points Out That They Can, At Times, Even “Want” To Be:
 - “A Friend Of The World!”
 - Other Translations Bring This Out:
 - Even More Clearly!

- “Whoever Wishes To Be A Friend Of The World!” (ESV)
- “Anyone Who Chooses To Be A Friend Of The World!” (NIV)
- “Whoever Decides To Be The World’s Friend!” (NET)
- So - Though Sometimes:
 - This Relationship With The World Can Happen:
 - In Subtle Ways!
- It Can Also Happen:
 - In Conscious & Intentional Ways!
 - And - This Is A Very Sad Truth About Worldliness:
 - In The Church & In Christians!
- But - What Would Cause Us:
 - To “Want” To Become:
 - More Worldly - And Chose To:
 - Be “A Friend Of The World?”
 - Another Quote I Came Across:
 - This Time By Iain Murray:
 - A Former Pastor & Christian Author:
 - That Further Explains What Worldliness Is!
 - “Worldliness Is Departing From God. It is A Man-Centered Way Of Thinking; It Proposes Objectives Which Demand No Radical Breach With Man’s Fallen Nature; It Judges The Importance Of Things By The Present And Material Results; It Weights Success By Numbers; It Covets Human Esteem And Wants No Unpopularity; It Knows No Truth For Which It Is Worth Suffering; It Declines To Be A ‘Fool’ For Christ’s Sake!”
 - Through This Explanation:
 - I Think We Can Find Some Of The Reasons Why, Even As Christians:
 - We Are Prone To Worldliness!
- We Often Want To:
 - Be A Friend Of The World:
 - When We Are More Independent:
 - Like The World!
 - According To Iain Murray:
 - Worldliness Is - “A Man-Centered Way Of Thinking!”
 - And - When We Think More Highly About:
 - Our Thoughts & Ways Of Doing Things:
 - Rather Than God’s:
 - Then - We Are In Danger Of Worldly Thinking & Practice!
 - We Must Never Get Over:
 - The Truth Found In Isaiah 55:8-9:
 - “For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways, saith the LORD. / For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways, and my thoughts than your thoughts!”
 - And So - We Need To Remember That:
 - We Are To Live Wholly Dependent Upon:
 - The Thoughts & Ways Of God!
 - However:
- We Are Also Tempted To:
 - Be A Friend Of The World:
 - When We Are More Inclined:
 - To The World!
 - When - According To This Quote:
 - We Propose “Objectives Which Demand No Radical Breach With Man’s Fallen Nature!”
 - In Other Words - There Is No Difference:
 - In The Deliberations:
 - We Have - Or:
 - In The Decisions:
 - We Make - Or:
 - In The Deeds:
 - We Do!

- Instead - We Want To Just:
 - “Go With The Flow” - So That:
 - We Make No Waves In This World!
- We May Also Want To:
 - Befriend This World:
 - When We Are More Influenced:
 - By The World - And Especially:
 - The World’s Metrics & Measurements Of Success!
 - Worldliness Will Judge:
 - “The Importance Of Things” - As Well As:
 - “The Success Of Things” - Based On:
 - Physical & Outward Measurements!
 - Since The World Deems Success:
 - By The Numbers:
 - So Should We!
 - Remember - This Is Something Samuel Faced:
 - When God Called Him To Anoint The Next King Of Israel:
 - After The Lord Rejected Saul!
 - In 1 Samuel 16 - Samuel Was Tempted To Make His Choice:
 - Based On Outward Factors!
 - Including The Appearances Of:
 - Attractiveness!
 - Ability!
 - Authority!
 - And So - When He Saw:
 - Eliab - The Firstborn Son Of Jesse:
 - He Thought To Himself:
 - “Surely The Lord’s Anointed Is Before Him!”
 - But - How Did The Lord Answer?
 - 1 Samuel 16:7 - “But the LORD said unto Samuel, Look not on his countenance, or on the height of his stature; because I have refused him: for the LORD seeth not as man seeth; for man looketh on the outward appearance, but the LORD looketh on the heart!”
 - We May Also Want To:
 - Be A Friend Of The World:
 - When We Are More Impressed:
 - By The World - And:
 - The People In This World!
 - And So - As Iain Murray Points Out:
 - We Will “Covet Human Esteem And Want No Unpopularity!”
 - When We Care More About:
 - What People Think Of Us - Than What:
 - God Thinks Of Us:
 - Then We Will Be Tempted To Compromise With The World!
 - In Our Personal Walk, Our Worship, Our Witness!
 - Remember What Paul Said About This:
 - In Galatians 1:10?
 - “For do I now persuade men, or God? or do I seek to please men? For if I yet pleased men, I should not be the servant of Christ!”
 - How Many Churches & Christians Today:
 - Have As Their Main Policy:
 - “Pleasing Men” - Over:
 - Pleasing God?
 - They Might Even Argue:
 - Didn’t Paul Say:
 - 1 Corinthians 9:22 - “I Am Made All Things To All Men, That I Might By All Means Save Some?”
 - Well - Paul Did Indeed Say This - And:
 - He Did Indeed Live In This Way!
 - But - He Did Not Practice It:

- In A Way That Was Worldly!
- When Paul Said This - He Did Not Mean That:
 - Christians Should Make:
 - The Truth & Even The Church:
 - To Be More Comfortable:
 - For The World!
 - Instead - He Sought To Live His Life:
 - Without Any Personal Offense Or Distraction To:
 - The Truths Of God & The Gospel!
 - For Paul - It Was All About:
 - Personal Service & Sacrifice & Self-Denial - Without Compromise Or Conformity To The World!
- And Yet - We May Still Decide To:
 - Be A Friend Of The World:
 - When We Are More Inclusive:
 - Of The World:
 - Than God Intends For His People To Be!
 - Again - Worldliness:
 - “Knows No Truth For Which It Is Worth Suffering; It Declines To Be A ‘Fool’ For Christ’s Sake!”
 - By Nature - Truth Divides!
 - Yet - God Still Calls On Us To:
 - Submit To The Truth!
 - Stand For The Truth! And:
 - Speak The Truth!
 - All Which Is Found:
 - In God’s Word!
 - After All - The Church Itself Is Called:
 - “The Pillar And Ground Of The Truth!” (1 Timothy 3:15)
- And Yet - The Sad Truth Is:
 - James 4:4 - There Are Still:
 - Christians & Churches Who:
 - “Will” & “Want To” Be “A Friend Of This World!”
 - For These Reasons - And Perhaps Even Others!

Conclusion:

1. But - When This Is True Of Us:
 - James Goes On To Say:
 - That Person “Is The Enemy Of God!”
2. So - We Need To:
 - Watch Out For Worldliness!
 - And Remember That:
 - Friendship With God:
 - Is Far Greater Than:
 - Friendship With This World!

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