

1 **FRIEND OR FOE**

James 4:4-6

2 **James 4:4-6**

• "Adulterers and adulteresses! Do you not know that friendship with the world is enmity with God? Whoever therefore wants to be a friend of the world makes himself an enemy of God. ⁵ Or do you think that the Scripture says in vain, 'The Spirit who dwells in us yearns jealously'? ⁶ But He gives more grace. Therefore He says: 'God resists the proud, But gives grace to the humble.'"

3 **2 Timothy 3:16-17**

• "All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness, ¹⁷ that the man of God may be complete, thoroughly equipped for every good work."
• James 4:4 is part of the Word of God

4 **James 1:1-2**

• "James, a bondservant of God and of the Lord Jesus Christ, To the twelve tribes which are scattered abroad: Greetings. ² My brethren, count it all joy when you fall into various trials."
• Three Points:
• I. The Principle of Friendship;
• II. The Practice of Friendship; and
• III. The Problems of Friendship.

5 **I. THE PRINCIPLES OF FRIENDSHIP**

• Principle #1: If you want friends, you must first be a true friend."
• Proverbs 18:24: "A man who has friends must himself be friendly, But there is a friend who sticks closer than a brother."
• EXAMPLE: Dale Thornton's childhood "friend," Calvin
• CHILDREN'S STORY: The Selfish Giant and the Children in the Garden

6 **Principle #2:**

• If you're my true friend, you can't be the friend of my mortal enemy.
• James 4:4: "Whoever therefore wants to be a friend of the world makes himself an enemy of God."
• EXAMPLE OF JONATHAN, DAVID'S FRIEND

7 **1 Samuel 20:30-33**

• Then Saul's anger was aroused against Jonathan, and he said to him, "You son of a perverse, rebellious woman! Do I not know that you have chosen the son of Jesse to your own shame and to the shame of your mother's nakedness? ³¹ "For as long as the son of Jesse lives on the earth, you shall not be established, nor your kingdom. Now therefore, send and bring him to me, for he shall surely die." ³² And Jonathan answered Saul his father, and said to him, "Why should he be killed? What has he done?" ³³ Then

Saul cast a spear at him to kill him, by which Jonathan knew that it was determined by his father to kill David.

8 **II. THE PRACTICE OF FRIENDSHIP**

- The story of Damon and Pythias
 - Damon and Pythias had been the best of friends since childhood.
 - Dionysius, the ruler of Syracuse
- EXAMPLE OF God's Friendship to a Lost, Sinful World

9 **III. THE PROBLEMS OF FRIENDSHIP**

- Adultery, "Adulterers and adulteresses" v. 4
 - Old Testament punishment -- stoning
 - Israel pictured as the wife of God

10 **Israel pictured as the wife of God:**

- Isaiah 54:5: For your Maker is your husband, The LORD of hosts is His name; And your Redeemer is the Holy One of Israel; He is called the God of the whole earth. Jeremiah 3:14: "Return, O backsliding children," says the LORD; "for I am married to you." Jeremiah 3:20: Surely, as a wife treacherously departs from her husband, So have you dealt treacherously with Me, O house of Israel," says the LORD.

11 **In the New Testament Christians are pictured as the bride of Christ**

- Romans 7:4: Therefore, my brethren, you also have become dead to the law through the body of Christ, that you may be married to another; to Him who was raised from the dead, that we should bear fruit to God.
- 2 Corinthians 11:2: For I am jealous for you with godly jealousy. For I have betrothed you to one husband, that I may present you as a chaste virgin to Christ.

12 **Ephesians 5:24-27**

- Therefore, just as the church is subject to Christ, so let the wives be to their own husbands in everything. ²⁵ Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ also loved the church and gave Himself for her, ²⁶ that He might sanctify and cleanse her with the washing of water by the word, ²⁷ that He might present her to Himself a glorious church, not having spot or wrinkle or any such thing, but that she should be holy and without blemish.

13 **Anger: God is angry with the world system and the ways of the world.**

- 1 John 2:15: Do not love the world or the things in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him. Romans 8:7-8: Because the carnal mind is enmity against God; for it is not subject to the law of God, nor indeed can be. ⁸ So then, those who are in the flesh cannot please God. Colossians 1:21: And you, who once were alienated and enemies in your mind by wicked works, yet now He has reconciled.

14 **God's anger is removed through the death of His Son, Jesus**

- Colossians 1:21: And you, who once were alienated and enemies in your mind by

wicked works, yet now He has reconciled.

- Romans 5:10: For if when we were enemies we were reconciled to God through the death of His Son, much more, having been reconciled, we shall be saved by His life.

15 **The problem**

- When God's people begin to act like the world
- The people James was writing to were evidently like this:
- James 4:1-2: Where do wars and fights come from among you? Do they not come from your desires for pleasure that war in your members? ² You lust and do not have. You murder and covet and cannot obtain. You fight and war. Yet you do not have because you do not ask.

16 **God doesn't give up on us.**

- The Holy Spirit in us will convict and draw us back to God.
- God will pour His grace into us.
- James 4:6: But He gives more grace. Therefore He says: "God resists the proud, But gives grace to the humble.