

# The Book of James

The Character of a *Mature Christian*

Lesson 4 – James Chapter 4



***Black Creek church of Christ***

***Summer Bible School***

***July 19, 2018***

James 4 – Outline and Study Questions:

- **A mature Christian does not love the world, but is a friend of God.** (Js. 4:1-10)
  - Whence come wars and fightings among you? \_\_\_\_\_
  - How else are the words “wars” and “fightings” (KJV) rendered in another translation? \_\_\_\_\_
  - Context: What was responsible for the disorder discussed in James 3:16? \_\_\_\_\_
  - What is the “battlefield” spoken of in verse 1? \_\_\_\_\_
  - What are the “members” that James refers to in the first verse? \_\_\_\_\_
  - Thought question: What are some “tactics” used in verbal wars?
    - \_\_\_\_\_
    - \_\_\_\_\_
    - \_\_\_\_\_
  - What were the “lusts” (KJV) or “pleasures” (NASB) that were warring in their members? \_\_\_\_\_?
  - In addition to “lusts” (v. 1), to what else does James attribute these battles that were taking place among them? \_\_\_\_\_
  - How does the language of these quarrels and conflicts intensify in verse 2? \_\_\_\_\_
  - Notice the translation of verse 2 in the NASB:
    - ***“You lust and do not have; so you commit murder. And you are envious and cannot obtain; so you fight and quarrel. You do not have because you do not ask.”*** (NASB)
    - What are they said to be doing because they lusted and did not have? \_\_\_\_\_
    - Is Matt. 5:21-26 helpful in the interpretation of this verse? \_\_\_\_\_ (cf. I Jn. 3:15)
    - Note: “With penetrating insight, then, James provides us with a powerful analysis of human conflict. Verbal argument, private violence or national conflict – the cause of all of them can be traced back to the frustrated desire to want more than we have, to be envious of and covet what others have, whether it be their position or possessions.” (Moo, pg. 142)
  - They did not have because they did not \_\_\_\_\_.
  - What two problems with their prayers does James identify in verses 2-3?
    - \_\_\_\_\_
    - \_\_\_\_\_
  - In what sense were they adulteresses? \_\_\_\_\_
    - Are texts such as Isa. 54:1-6; Jer. 2:2; 3:20; and Hosea 2:5,7,16, 20 helpful in addressing the above? \_\_\_\_\_
    - What does friendship with the world do to our relationship with God? \_\_\_\_\_
  - What is the point that James is making in verse 5? (cf. Deut. 32:16; Zech. 8:2) \_\_\_\_\_
  - Note: Other N.T. scriptures where the word translated as “lusteth” (KJV) or “jealously desires” (NASB) in verse 5 occurs: Rom. 1:11; II Cor. 5:2; Phil. 1:8; 2:26; I Thess. 3:6; II Tim. 1:4; I Pet. 2:2
  - What does God do to the proud? \_\_\_\_\_ To the humble? \_\_\_\_\_
  - What is the remedy for loving the world that James sets forth in verses 6-10?
    - \_\_\_\_\_
    - \_\_\_\_\_

- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_
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- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_

- How does verse 10 connect with verse 6? \_\_\_\_\_
- What are some keys to resisting the devil? Where else in James is the subject of sin and temptation addressed?

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

- **A mature Christian does not speak evil of his brother.** (James 4:11-12)

- What are some ways in which one might speak evil of another?

- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_

- What are some reasons one might speak evil of another?

- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_

- How does this prohibition relate to the first part of this chapter?

- What is one who speaks evil of his brother also guilty of doing?

- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_

- What is meant by “judges the law”?

\_\_\_\_\_ What law is James talking about? \_\_\_\_\_

- Does the Bible forbid all kinds of judging?

\_\_\_\_\_

- If not, what is the judgment that is forbidden? (cf. Matt. 7:1-5; Jn. 7:24)

\_\_\_\_\_

- Note: Once again, James writes of the importance of doing the law. Where else in this book does he also address that? \_\_\_\_\_

- There is one lawgiver who is able to \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_.

- Who art you who judges your neighbor? \_\_\_\_\_

- **A mature Christian is not presumptuous takes God into account in all his plans.** (4:13-17)

- Note: James condemns the arrogant, boastful attitude that neglects to take into account the will of God, as well as the transitory nature of life.

- What presumptions do these worldly-minded planners make? \_\_\_\_\_

- What fundamental fact of life have they forgotten? \_\_\_\_\_

- Instead you ought to say, \_\_\_\_\_ “...”

- What does James describe as sin in verse 17? \_\_\_\_\_

Memory Work: James 4:7, 17

- 1) 1:2—"consider"
- 3) 1:5—"let him ask"
- 5) 1:7—"let suppose/think" (negated/prohibition)
- 7) 1:13—"let say" (negated/prohibition)
- 9) 1:19—"let be"
- 11) 1:22—"be/become"
- 13) 2:5—"listen"
- 15) 2:12—"act"
- 17) 3:1—"let be" (negated/prohibition)
- 19) 3:5—"behold/look"
- 21) 3:14—"boast" (negated/prohibition)
- 23) 4:7—"submit/subject yourselves"
- 25) 4:8—"draw near"
- 27) 4:8—"sanctify/purify" (cf. Jn. 11:55; 1 Pet. 1:22)
- 29) 4:9—"mourn" (cf. Mt. 5:4)
- 31) 4:9—"let be turned"
- 33) 4:11—"speak against" (negated/prohibition)
- 35) 5:1—"come now" (purpose is to reprove; 4:13)
- 37) 5:4—"behold/look"
- 39) 5:7—"behold/look"
- 41) 5:8—"strengthen"
- 43) 5:9—"behold/look"
- 45) 5:11—"behold/look"
- 47) 5:12—"let be"
- 49) 5:13—"let him sing praise"
- 51) 5:14—"let them pray"
- 53) 5:16—"pray"
- 2) 1:4—"let have"
- 4) 1:6—"let him ask"
- 6) 1:9—"let boast"
- 8) 1:16—"be deceived" (negated/prohibition)
- 10) 1:21—"receive"
- 12) 2:1—"hold" (negated/prohibition)
- 14) 2:12—"speak"
- 16) 2:18—"show"
- 18) 3:4—"behold/look"
- 20) 3:13—"let him show"
- 22) 3:14—"lie" (negated/prohibition)
- 24) 4:7—"resist" (cf. 1 Pet. 5:9)
- 26) 4:8—"cleanse" (to free/strip: Mt. 8:2-3; 1 Jn. 1:7, 9)
- 28) 4:9—"lament/be grieved"
- 30) 4:9—"weep"
- 32) 4:10—"humble yourselves"
- 34) 4:13—"come now" (cf. "see now," Mt. 26:65)
- 36) 5:1—"weep" (w/"howling"—repentance; 4:9)
- 38) 5:7—"be patient" (cf. 2 Pet. 3:9)
- 40) 5:8—"be patient"
- 42) 5:9—"grumble" (negated/prohibition)
- 44) 5:10—"take"
- 46) 5:12—"swear" (negated/prohibition)
- 48) 5:13—"let him pray"
- 50) 5:14—"let him call"
- 52) 5:16—"confess"
- 54) 5:20—"let him know"