

James 4:1-6

Overcoming Conflict through Humility

In our passage today, James exposes the fact that conflict arises because of our worldly desires. Whether we are rebelling against authority, arguing with a friend, or just stirring up trouble because we did not get our way, we can learn a lot from this passage concerning conflict in our lives.

> **Verse 1-3** show that our personal desires result in conflict. Why do you think that is? Our personal desires are usually selfish. When we are being selfish, conflict usually arises.

> God does not give us things that we selfishly seek (**vv. 2-3**). In fact, seeking worldly things is described by the term “adultery” and being at “enmity” (hostility) with God (**v. 4**). Do you think these descriptions are accurate? Why? Yes, because seeking world things is unfaithfulness toward God.

> Why does friendship with the world make God jealous (**vv. 4-5**)? Because God purchased us through the blood of Christ to accomplish His purpose, and so He desires our affection to be for Him.

> What does God offer to those who recognize their selfishness and seek His strength in this area? He gives them grace.

Application

This passage is clear, “Whoever wishes to be a friend of the world makes himself an enemy of God” (**v. 4**). When we know who God has called us to be, but instead choose to live for the fleshly desires of the world, we are simply being selfish. This selfishness creates more problems that we realize. When we swallow our pride in humility and focus on elevating Christ, we are granted God’s grace and avoid countless issues and heartache. The key is to live life unselfishly, being sold out and surrendered in our committed and loyalty to God!