

May 9, 2022

The Lord wants you to experience real and abundant life:

James 4:4 *You adulterous people, don't you know that friendship with the world means enmity against God? Therefore, anyone who chooses to be a friend of the world becomes an enemy of God.* (NIV)

James, the half-brother of Jesus, does not hold back when he shares what is on his heart. He minces no words. In fact, he speaks boldly about how we are to act as believers. To be separated from the life of selfishness is key. James exclaims that friendship with the world means being an enemy to God. That is bold, but it is also true. He makes no bones about it, and he isn't trying to win friends or influence people. He is just stating the facts. In fact, he pictures friendship with the patterns and thoughts of this world to be equal to the infidelity of a spouse.

Adultery means saying one thing and then doing another. It would be like a man standing across from a woman and pledging his loyalty and love to her, but then going out and giving himself to someone else. James is upset with the fact that we say we love the LORD, but then our actions say we love ourselves and the things of this world. And even worse, it comes from our own choice to do so. It is not just a 'mistake' or a 'slip up.' It is a pre-meditated choice that we make and put into effect. So how can we make sure that what we say, we will also do? The key is living in the life of Christ rather than our own. It means focusing on what He desires and has planned instead of what we want. It is being daily crucified to our flesh and being made alive to His will. This is not something that we can do of our own power and will, but it is by daily submission to the will of the Father.

Let us make sure that this day is devoted to the One Who has given everything for us. He literally laid down His life so that we could enjoy real and abundant life in Him.

Dear LORD, thank You for the cross. Thank You for Your love. Thank You for the price You paid on our behalf. We lift You up and choose to follow You completely today. In Jesus Name, Amen