

THE CURE FOR SPIRITUAL ADULTERY

JAMES 4:1-10

INTRODUCTION:

The Christian life can often appear to look and feel anything but Christian, and certainly it can have the appearance that I am doing everything that I thought I was supposed to do and it still does not seem to be working. James is going to answer this question, “Where do all these troubles and struggles come from?” We know that there is conflict for the Christian and the world, but how does that really affect our relationship with God?

In the first three verses, James reminds us of the “unchristian” feel to the Christian life:

- **External conflicts** – “wars and fightings”
- **Internal struggles** – “lusts”
- **Ineffective praying** – “ye have not because ye ask not” or “you ask amiss”

Most often we try to simplify the Christian life and emphasize conformity to a code of behavior as a solution to our struggles. James is not about a list of dos and don'ts. He is teaching about the relationship we have with God and the inner motivation that comes from rightly assessing who God is, how much God loves you, and what He has done for you. James describes the problem in our lives, both individually and in the church, as a problem of worldliness. Worldliness in the strongest terms is spiritual adultery and unfaithfulness to God.

THEREFORE, WE MUST STOP SPIRITUAL ADULTERY.

I. THE NATURE OF OUR RELATIONSHIP WITH GOD (v. 4)

- A. Our relationship with God and his relationship with us is the result of a loving **choice**.
- B. Our relationship with God is one of **vulnerability** and **commitment**.
- C. Passionate **intimacy** is possible.

II. THE AUTHORITY OF THE SCRIPTURES (v. 5-6)

- A. The Holy Spirit desires _____ to Him.
- B. Godliness and worldliness cannot _____.

III. THE CALL TO RETURN TO THE LORD (v. 7-10)

- A. Come _____. (v. 7-8a)
- B. Come _____. (v. 8b)
- C. Come _____. (v. 9)
- D. Come _____. (v. 10)
- E. Come _____. (v. 11-12)