

Friendship of the World

James 4:1-4

- Friendship: 'involves idea of loving as well as of being loved' – R-R
- Danger to Christian: wants to be accepted by wrong crowd ... whom he has accepted
- Jn.7⁷, the world cannot hate you, but it hates Me because I testify of it that its works are evil
- World: whatever opposes God / His rival

World – summary

- That which beautifies through decoration,
1 Pt.3:3-4
- Sum total of everything here and now, the world
(orderly) universe, Ph.2:15
- Humanity in general, *the world*, Jn.3:16.
(John's favorite word?)
- System of human existence in its many aspects
 1. Earthly joys, possessions, cares, sufferings.
Mt.16:26
 2. What is hostile to God [lost in sin, wholly at
odds with anything divine]: 1 Jn.5:19

I. The Clues of Worldliness

- A. Excuses for sins, 'human weaknesses.'
Ex.32:24
- B. Attracted to, often think about, or participate in immoral activities. Mic.2:1
- C. Passion for recreation (sports, music, movies) but mere tolerance for Bible study
- D. Little time for God; lot of time for self. Mt.6:33
- E. Willing to let others do the work; remain uninvolved. Mt.25:25f
- F. Do not treat brothers in Christ as you would the Lord. Mt.25:34-46
- G. Chip on shoulder. 2 Tim.4:3-4; Pr.27:6
- H. Hypercritical of other Christians. Jd.16. 1 K.22

I. The Clues of Worldliness

II. The Causes of Worldliness

- Worldly people. 1 Co.15:33
- Wealth. Lk.12
- Power. Mt.20:20-28
- Pride. 2 Tim.3:2. Dn.4

I. The Clues of Worldliness

II. The Causes of Worldliness

III. The Cost of Worldliness

- Enemy of God, Ja.4:4
 - Balaam wanted God AND money...
 - Achan wanted God AND treasures...
 - Saul wanted God AND own way...
 - Ja.4:4
- Enmity against other people, Ja.4:14 (3:16...)
- Example that may snare weak brothers,
Ja.5:19-20

I. The Clues of Worldliness

II. The Causes of Worldliness

III. The Cost of Worldliness

IV. The Cure For Worldliness

Lk.22:31-32

1. Love God with all the heart, Mt.22:37 [Dt.6:5]
2. Do not love the world, 1 Jn.2:15-17 [Jn.3:16]

“John is never afraid of an apparent contradiction when it saves his readers from a real contradiction” – Maurice

- God loves the human race; we must not love God's rival
- God and sinful world are opposed; no one can love both at once (Mt.6:24, no one can serve two masters...)

- Worldliness is not limited to external behavior (places, companions, activities); begins in heart
- Three attitudes –
 - Craves physical pleasures... Nu.11:4
 - Covets what it sees... Mt.5:28
 - Conceit in possessions... Lk.15:12

1. Love God with all the heart, Mt.22:37 (Dt.6:5)
2. Do not love the world, 1 Jn.2:15-17 [Jn.3:16]
3. Watch your friends, 1 Co.15:33
4. Return to right way. Lk.22:31-32
 - 1Co.10 – fistful of sins defeated Israel / Corinthians?
 - 1 Co.10:13

Joseph

- Does best in every role: son, slave, prisoner...
- Avoids people / situations of compromise
- Keeps perspective about God
- Keeps himself busy doing his duty
- Does not let bad memories of the past poison his present joy
- Willingly / completely forgives those who hated and harmed him

Daniel

- Holds to a fixed purpose, 1:8
- Refuses to compromise with sin and error, 1:8
- Keeps focus on God in every situation, 2:28
- Continues to do what he can even in old age, ch.6
- Courageously maintains faith even in persecution, ch.6

This world is not a friend to the Christian

- Hated by world, Jn.17:14
- Not of world, Jn.17:16
- Delivered from world, Gal.1:4
- Crucified to world, Gal.6:14