



Study of: James

THEME: CHRIST INSIDE AND OUT

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Class 7 “The Answer to Worldliness in the Church” Overview:

This lesson, Worldliness, defined as an unfaithful “friendship with the world,” disrupts a Christian's relationship with God, leading to a carnal mindset. The ultimate remedy is for believers to submit to God, resist the devil, practice true humility, and allow biblical truth to transform their lives.

Class Objectives:

1. How can we identify worldliness in our Christian walk?
2. In what ways do you see today's Christians showing friendship with the world?
3. How has the Bible affected how you see yourself and the world around you?

The Evidence of Worldliness

James 4:1-3 “Where do [a]wars and fights come from among you? Do they not come from your desires for pleasure that war in your members? 2 You lust and do not have. You murder and covet and cannot obtain. You fight and [b]war. [c]Yet you do not have because you do not ask. 3 You ask and do not receive, because you ask amiss, that you may spend it on your pleasures.”

- Those conflicts and disputes among you, where do they come from?
 - The first term “wars”(polemoi)[pole-ah-moy], “a battle with weapons, an armed conflict”.
 - This is followed by “fights” (machē)[ma-hee]i, which refers to clashes, fighting, without weapons, as in personal conflicts.
- “Come from among you” - What is the origin of this behavior?
- “Desire for pleasure”
 - **Romans 7:22-23** “22 For I delight in the law of God according to the inward man. 23 But I see another law in my members, warring against the law of my mind, and bringing me into captivity to the law of sin which is in my members.”
 - **Galatians 5:16-17** “16 I say then: Walk in the Spirit, and you shall not fulfill the lust of the flesh. 17 For the flesh lusts against the Spirit, and the Spirit against the flesh; and these are contrary to one another, so that you do not do the things that you wish. ”
- “pleasure” - GK “hēdonē”[hee-done-ee] - hedonism - satisfaction and enjoyment - hedonism (the philosophy that physical pleasure is the highest gain regardless of the cost/actions (lust, murder, covet)

Q. How can we identify worldliness in our Christian walk?

The Root of Worldliness

James 4:4 “4 [d]Adulterers and adulteresses! Do you not know that friendship with the world is enmity with God? Whoever therefore wants to be a friend of the world makes himself an enemy of God.

- “Adulterers and adulteresses” - places both genders in the position of an unfaithful bride
 - Vs 4 AMP “You [are like] unfaithful wives [having illicit love affairs with the world and breaking your marriage vow to God]!”
- **“Friendship” - GK “philia”[phil-ee-ah]** Friendship on a love level (shared intimacy and values)
 - **1 John 2:15** “15 Do not love the world or the things in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him. ”
- Conformity to this world means sharing this world’s values
 - **Romans 8:6-8** “6 For to be [b]carnally minded is death, but to be spiritually minded is life and peace. 7 Because the [c]carnal mind is enmity against God; for it is not subject to the law of God, nor indeed can be. 8 So then, those who are in the flesh cannot please God.”
- To live in this carnal state (born again with a worldly mindset), the person MUST make God the enemy! (the church, preachers, the bible, the people, patriarchy, gender)

Q. In what ways do you see today’s Christians showing friendship with the world?

The Answer for Worldliness

James 4:7-10 “7 Therefore submit to God. Resist the devil and he will flee from you. 8 Draw near to God and He will draw near to you. Cleanse your hands, you sinners; and purify your hearts, you double-minded. 9 Lament and mourn and weep! Let your laughter be turned to mourning and your joy to gloom. 10 Humble yourselves in the sight of the Lord, and He will lift you up.”

- **“submit” - GK “hypotassō” [ee-po-tas-sō]** - to bring under control - to put in subjection
 - Worldliness for a Christian is trying to resist God while submitting to the devil
- How’d did the church get here? Shallow preaching/teaching -
 - Salvation without transformation - building churches, not the kingdom - catering to the babe and neglecting the mature
- NOTE: Never sit under teaching/preaching that does not challenge you to SUBMIT!
- **“DRAW” or “DRIVE”** - The word of God is the answer against Christian worldliness
 - Thank God for His CONVICTION!
- **“Double-Minded”** - This is the Christian who thinks they can love God and the world
- **“Humble yourselves”** - Pride always precedes a fall! Humility is the position of lowliness
 - The word of God keeps us aware of who we are (struggles, blunders, setbacks, failures), yet in all that, God still loves us

Q. How has the Bible affected how you see yourself and the world around you?