

James 4:4-10

“You adulterous people! Do you not know that friendship with the world is enmity with God? Therefore whoever wishes to be a friend of the world makes himself an enemy of God. 5 Or do you suppose it is to no purpose that the Scripture says, “He yearns jealously over the spirit that he has made to dwell in us”? 6 But he gives more grace. Therefore it says, “God opposes the proud but gives grace to the humble.” 7 Submit yourselves therefore 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 Be wretched and mourn and weep. Let your laughter be turned to mourning and your joy to gloom. 10 Humble yourselves before the Lord, and he will exalt you.” (ESV)

4:4 – “You adulterous people! Do you not know that friendship with the world is enmity with God? Therefore whoever wishes to be a friend of the world makes himself an enemy of God.

3428 [e]	3756 [e]	1492 [e]	3754 [e]	3588 [e]	5373 [e]	3588 [e]	2889 [e]	2189 [e]	3588 [e]	2316 [e]	1510 [e]
Moichalides	ouk	oidate	hoti	hē	philia	tou	kosmou	echthra	tou	Theou	estin
4 Μοιχαλίδες !	οὐκ	οἶδατε	ὅτι	ἡ	φιλία	τοῦ	κόσμου	, ἔχθρα	τοῦ	Θεοῦ	ἔστιν ?
Adulteresses	Not	know you	that	the	friendship	with the	world	hostility	[with]	God	is
N-VFP	Adv	V-RIA-2P	Conj	Art-NFS	N-NFS	Art-GMS	N-GMS	N-NFS	Art-GMS	N-GMS	V-PIA-3S

3739 [e]	1437 [e]	3767 [e]	1014 [e]	5384 [e]	1510 [e]	3588 [e]	2889 [e]	2190 [e]	3588 [e]	2316 [e]	2525 [e]
hos	ean	oun	boulēthē	philos	einai	tou	kosmou	echthros	tou	Theou	kathistatai
ὃς	ἐὰν	οὖν	βουληθῆ	φίλος	εἶναι	τοῦ	κόσμου	, ἐχθρὸς	τοῦ	Θεοῦ	καθίσταται .
Whoever	if	therefore	has chosen	a friend	to be	of the	world	an enemy	-	of God	is appointed
RelPro-NMS	Conj	Conj	V-ASP-3S	Adj-NMS	V-PNA	Art-GMS	N-GMS	Adj-NMS	Art-GMS	N-GMS	V-PIM/P-3S

1. James stopped using terms such as “brothers” and “us” in 3:1 when he said, “Not many of you should become teachers, my brothers,…”
 - a. Here in 4:4 his readers are addressed intentionally offensively as “adulteresses” (see Greek, ESV and NIV “adulterous people”)
 - b. The purpose is to refer to covenant relationship such as marriage and Israel under the Law.
 - c. In 4:8 he addresses his readers as “you sinners” and “you double minded” (Both as vocative masculine plural adjectives.)
2. 1 John 2:15-17 similar:

“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. For all that is in the world—the desires of the flesh and the desires of the eyes and pride of life—is not from the Father but is from the world. And the world is passing away along with its desires, but whoever does the will of God abides forever.”
3. 2 Timothy 3
4. Opponents, opposites:

Friendship with the world = Enmity with God
Friend with the world = Enemy of God
5. Friendship with the world is seen in doing things the way the world does them:
 - a. In James it is using the church, believing community to achieve ambition, craving, desire for power, control

- b. In James it is wanting things of the world and then using worldly methods to attain them: slander, murder, fighting, warring
- c. In Mark 10:35-45 Jesus explained:
 - i. The world lords it over the subjects (Mark 10:44):
 - 1. Rulers of the Gentiles → lord it over them
 - 2. The Great ones → exercise dominion over them
 - ii. The kingdom of God serves the subjects:
 - 1. Deny self
 - 2. Pray
 - 3. Be least
 - 4. Serve all
 - 5. Depend on God
- 6. If you wish to be a friend of the world (practice worldly principles) you become an enemy of God. There will be advancement in this age, but suffering in the age to come.
- 7. If you wish to be a friend of God (serve others, depend on God) you become an enemy of the world. There will be persecution in this age, but reward in the age to come.

4:5 – “Or do you suppose it is to no purpose that the Scripture says, “He yearns jealously over the spirit that he has made to dwell in us”?”

2228 [e]	1380 [e]	3754 [e]	2761 [e]	3588 [e]	1124 [e]	3004 [e]	4314 [e]	5355 [e]	1971 [e]	3588 [e]	4151 [e]
e	dokeite	hoti	kenōs	hē	graphē	legei	Pros	phthonon	epipothei	to	pneuma
5 ἢ	δοκεῖτε	ὅτι	κενῶς	ἡ	γραφή	λέγει	, Πρὸς	φθόνον	ἐπιποθεῖ	τὸ	πνεῦμα
Or	think you	that	in vain	the	Scripture	says	With	envy	yearns	the	Spirit
Conj	V-PIA-2P	Conj	Adv	Art-NFS	N-NFS	V-PIA-3S	Prep	N-AMS	V-PIA-3S	Art-ANS	N-ANS

3739 [e]	2730 [e]	1722 [e]	1473 [e]
ho	katōkisen	en	hēmin
ὁ	κατοκίσειεν	ἐν	ἡμῖν ?
that	He has made to dwell	in	us
RelPro-ANS	V-AIA-3S	Prep	PPro-D1P



1. In the OT God is presented as a jealous God in Exodus 20:5 and 34:14.
 - a. Jealousy in humans is negative
 - b. Jealousy in God is his right as Creator and Lord.
2. The Scripture in quotes in the ESV and other translations here maybe is not the Scripture James is referring to since it is not identifiable, but instead is a paraphrase of the concept of the Scripture with is quoted in the next verse – Proverbs 3:34
3. The “spirit” here could be the Holy Spirit or the spirit of man
 - a. The Holy Spirit:
 - i. Dwells in believers and yearns with jealousy for their obedience
 - b. Human spirit
 - i. The human spirit yearns with jealousy
 - ii. This matches the evil James is describing among his readers
 - c. God yearns with jealousy for the human spirit he caused to live in us
 - i. God desires our obedience
4. James does join himself with the group again when he says “he has made to dwell in US”

4:6 – “But he gives more grace. Therefore it says, “God opposes the proud but gives grace to the humble.”

3173 [e] 1161 [e] 1325 [e] 5485 [e] 1352 [e] 3004 [e] 3588 [e] 2316 [e] 5244 [e] 498 [e]
 meizona de didōsin charin dio legei Ho Theos hyperēphanois antitassetai
 6 μείζονα δὲ δίδωσιν χάριν . διὸ λέγει : Ὁ Θεὸς ὑπερηφάνοις ἀντιτάσσεται ,
 Greater however He gives grace Therefore it says - God [the] proud opposes
 Adj-AFS-C Conj V-PIA-3S N-AFS Conj V-PIA-3S Art-NMS N-NMS Adj-DMP V-PIM-3S

5011 [e] 1161 [e] 1325 [e] 5485 [e]
 tapeinois de didōsin charin
 ταπεινοῖς δὲ δίδωσιν χάριν .
 to [the] humble however gives grace
 Adj-DMP Conj V-PIA-3S N-AFS

1. Proverbs 3:34 –
 “Toward the scorers he is scornful,
 but to the humble he gives favor.”
2. Breakdown:
 - a. 4:5 – Do you think it is for nothing that the Scripture says...
 - b. Paraphrase of Proverbs 3:34 –
 - i. The human spirit yearns toward envy (4:5b)
 - ii. God gives grace (4:6a)
 - c. 4:6b – The Scripture is quoted that is referred to in 4:5 -
 “God opposes the proud, but gives grace to the humble.”

NEGATIVE	POSITIVE
The human spirit tends toward evil, pride, envy	God gives grace to the sinful human spirit
God, who is an enemy of the world, opposes the proud.	God gives grace to the humble

3. This is the POINT OF THE BOOK OF JAMES!

Now James gives the answer to all the issues he has raised.
 Believers need to be humble. They will need to humble themselves before God to receive this grace.
 Now James lists 10 imperatives divided into 6 sections:

1. Submit
2. Resist
3. Draw near
4. Cleanse your hands
5. Purify your hearts
6. Lament
7. Mourn
8. Weep
9. Laughter turned to mourning
10. Humble yourselves

Six sections:

1. Submission
2. Resistance
3. Draw near to God
4. Cleansing and Purification
5. Repentance
6. Humility

4:7 – “Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you.

5293 [e]	3767 [e]	3588 [e]	2316 [e]	436 [e]	1161 [e]	3588 [e]	1228 [e]	2532 [e]	5343 [e]	575 [e]	4771 [e]
Hypotagete	oun	to	Theō	antistete	de	to	diabolō	kai	pheuxetai	aph'	hymōn
7 Ὑποτάγητε	οὖν	τῷ	Θεῷ	ἀντίστητε	δὲ	τῷ	διαβόλῳ	, καὶ	φεύξεται	ἀφ'	ὑμῶν
Subject yourselves	therefore	-	to God	Resist	however	the	devil	and	he will flee	from	you
V-AMP-2P	Conj	Art-DMS	N-DMS	V-AMA-2P	Conj	Art-DMS	Adj-DMS	Conj	V-FIM-3S	Prep	PPro-G2P

4:8 – “Draw near to God, and he will draw near to you. Cleanse your hands, you sinners, and purify your hearts, you double-minded.

1448 [e]	3588 [e]	2316 [e]	2532 [e]	1448 [e]	4771 [e]	2511 [e]	5495 [e]	268 [e]	2532 [e]
engisate	tō	Theō	kai	engiei	hymīn	katharisate	cheiras	hamartōloi	kai
8 ἐγγίσατε	τῷ	Θεῷ	, καὶ	ἐγγιεῖ*	ὑμῖν	καθαρίσατε	χεῖρας	, ἁμαρτωλοί	, καὶ
Draw near	-	to God	and	He will draw near	to you	Cleanse	[your] hands	[you] sinners	and
V-AMA-2P	Art-DMS	N-DMS	Conj	V-FIA-3S	PPro-D2P	V-AMA-2P	N-AFP	Adj-VMP	Conj

48 [e]	2588 [e]	1374 [e]
hagnisate	kardias	dipsychoi
ἀγνίσατε	καρδίας	, δίψυχοι
have purified	hearts	[you] double-minded
V-AMA-2P	N-AFP	Adj-VMP



4:9 – “Be wretched and mourn and weep. Let your laughter be turned to mourning and your joy to gloom.

5003 [e]	2532 [e]	3996 [e]	2532 [e]	2799 [e]	3588 [e]	1071 [e]	4771 [e]	1519 [e]	3997 [e]
talaipōrēsate	kai	penthēsate	kai	klausate	ho	gelōs	hymōn	eis	penthos
9 ταλαιπωρήσατε	, καὶ	πενθήσατε	, καὶ	κλαύσατε	ὁ	γέλωσ	ὑμῶν	, εἰς	πένθος
Be grieved	and	mourn	and	weep	The	laughter	of you	to	mourning
V-AMA-2P	Conj	V-AMA-2P	Conj	V-AMA-2P	Art-NMS	N-NMS	PPro-G2P	Prep	N-ANS

3344 [e]	2532 [e]	3588 [e]	5479 [e]	1519 [e]	2726 [e]
metatrapētō	kai	hē	chara	eis	katēpheian
μετατραπήτω	, καὶ	ἡ	χαρὰ	εἰς	κατήφειαν
let be turned	and	the	joy	to	gloom
V-AMP-3S	Conj	Art-NFS	N-NFS	Prep	N-AFS

4:10 – “Humble yourselves before the Lord, and he will exalt you.”

5013 [e]	1799 [e]	2962 [e]	2532 [e]	5312 [e]	4771 [e]
tapeinōthēte	enōpion	Kyriou	kai	hypsōsei	hymas
10 ταπεινώθητε	ἐνώπιον	Κυρίου	, καὶ	ὑψώσει	ὑμᾶς
Humble yourselves	in the presence of	[the] Lord	and	He will exalt	you
V-AMP-2P	Prep	N-GMS	Conj	V-FIA-3S	PPro-A2P