

## THE PROBLEM OF WORLDLINESS IN THE CHURCH

(James 4:1-6)

### I. THE CONDITION MANIFESTING WORLDLINESS (4:1-6)

#### A. The DESCRIPTION of the Condition (4:1-3)

1. James opens with two rhetorical questions couched in military imagery to get his audience to think; to \_\_\_\_\_ about the inner \_\_\_\_\_ that was expressed \_\_\_\_\_ towards others. (v. 1a)
2. The satisfaction of their own “*desires*” (which is what pleasure is) is what they wanted to spend vast quantities of \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_, and \_\_\_\_\_ to obtain.
3. The arguments and conflicts that were disrupting Christian fellowship could \_\_\_\_\_ be ascribed to some kind of righteous, justifiable zeal; it was all clearly \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_ desires. (v. 1b)
4. With the use of hyperbole, James states that these inner lusts to obtain something ended up leading to a frustrated \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ among God’s people. (v. 2a)
5. These Christians’ inner lusts were not \_\_\_\_\_ because they never thought to ask the Lord in \_\_\_\_\_. (v. 2b)

\* Do Christians ever complain about their circumstances without praying about them?

6. James quickly adds that even though some did ask in prayer, their request would be \_\_\_\_\_, because it was ultimately to fulfill more self-indulgent “\_\_\_\_\_” (*hēdonai*). (v. 3)

### **B. The REBUKE for the Condition (4:4-6)**

1. James’ sharp words accused these believers of trying to love the Lord, and at the same time of having a spiritually \_\_\_\_\_ with the world. (v. 4, cf. Rom. 7:4; 1 John 2:15-17)
  
2. If his readers were not willing to accept his indictment of spiritual harlotry (in v. 4), he asked them in v. 5 of what they thought of Scripture related to \_\_\_\_\_ for His people’s undivided \_\_\_\_\_. (v. 5, cf. Isa. 54:5; Jer. 3:1-5, 20; Ezek. 23; Hosea 9:1; Eph. 5:22-32)
  
3. James reminds his readers that God is willing to provide boatloads of grace for the believer, but it is \_\_\_\_\_ on the \_\_\_\_\_, whether it is “*proud*” or “*humble*”. (v. 6)

\* How can you personally apply this truth this morning?