



## James Lesson 4

### REVIEW OF CHAPTER 1-3

*As in the previous chapters, James is focusing on the behavior of believers that testify to the authenticity of their faith in Christ. James believes that our behavior is the active agent of our testimony. If our faith is genuine, we will produce the fruit of righteousness which, in turn, will affect the lives of all around us. The problem with this is that our flesh and its lusts*

*oppose the work of righteousness in our lives. The more we submit or give into the lust of our flesh, the less character of Christ is encouraged in our lives. In chapter 4, James doesn't beat around the bush with the source of our difficulties. Friendship with the world, selfishness, pride, and discontent are faith killers.*

### READ JAMES 4



**Verse 1-lusts**-hedone- from hedonai, to have sensual pleasure or delight; gratification; enjoyment. In the N.T. it is used only of physical pleasure.

*“In the N.T. hedone ‘represents one of the many forces which belong to the world of unsanctified carnality, which strive against the work of God and His Spirit and which drag man back again into the kingdom of evil. Since simple pleasure as such is not contrary to God’s will, hedone in the NT designates ‘evil pleasure.’” International Standard Bible Encyclopedia*

**Verse 2 lust**-epithumeo-in the mind. To have affections directed toward something, to lust, desire, and long after. To set the heart upon; covet.

Vine's/Strong's

1. What is the source of the fighting amongst people according to James?

2. Use a New American Standard Bible to fill in the blanks for verses 2-3:

Verse 2 "You \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_; so you \_\_\_\_\_."

...you are \_\_\_\_\_ and cannot \_\_\_\_\_; so you \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_."

Verse 3 You \_\_\_\_\_ but you \_\_\_\_\_, because you \_\_\_\_\_ with \_\_\_\_\_, so that you may \_\_\_\_\_ your \_\_\_\_\_."

3. Summarize what you think James is saying in those verses. Include how they apply to you.

4. What does it mean to be a "friend of the world," and why would James label that behavior as adultery? 4:4



"Both world and flesh (*kosmos* and *sarx*) are used in the NT in a variety of nuances ranging from neutral to negative, ie., indicative of opposition to God. Thus, in the *kosmos* word group, the 'worldly' is opposed to the 'godly' (2 Cor. 7:10) and to the things 'of the Lord' (1 Cor. 7:34). The 'world' in this sense denotes the whole human system of things as organized apart from the factors of God."

*International Standard Bible Encyclopedia*

5. Why does God respond to the humble with grace but not to the proud?



***Prayer requests:***

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***Group time notes:***

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