

## James: Submission to God

(James 4:4-10)

### Friendship with the World (v. 4-6)

- Having addressed the underlying issues that lead to fights & quarrels (v. 1-3), James speaks harshly to his audience, calling them adulterous
  - He is borrowing from the OT prophets' imagery of God's people as His wife, who often run after other things (Isa 57:3; Ezek 16:38; 23:45; Hos 2:5-7)
  - By seeking friendship with the world, they are, in effect, committing spiritual adultery
- The behavior of James' audience portrays a tendency to imitate the world
  - Discrimination (2:1-13)
  - Speaking negatively of others (3:1-12)
  - Bitterness & selfish ambition (3:13-18)
  - Pursuing destructive pleasures (4:1-3)
- Spiritual adultery begins with worldly flirtation
  - This invokes the jealousy of God
  - But He also wants to show us grace
  - James cites Pro 3:34 as evidence of God's desire for humility and opposition to worldly pride

### Submission & Humility (v. 7-10)

- The antidote to worldly friendship is humble submission to God's lordship in all things
- Humbling ourselves before God involves:
  - Resisting evil influence
  - Drawing near to God: Prayer, silence, & time in His Word (v. 8a)
  - Repentance: Admitting our sinfulness & turning to God (v. 8b-9)
- The result of such humble submission is strength, vitality, & victory through Christ (v. 7b, 10)

### So What?

- Are we flirting with the world?
- Or are we drawing near to God?
- We cannot do both

Meditation Verse: *James 4:7*