



PRACTICAL GUIDELINES FOR AN EFFECTIVE CHRISTIAN LIFE
Lesson Seven: Friendship with the World
James 4:1-12

1. How do you define 'worldliness'?

2. Give some examples of activities that some Christians might typically view as 'worldly'.

3. How do we live 'in' the world but not 'of' the world?

Keys to the Text

The World: The Greek word used here is *Kosmos*. It does not refer to the physical earth or universe but rather to the spiritual reality of the man-centered, Satan directed system of the present age, which is hostile to God and God's people. It refers to the self-centered, godless value system and moral contamination of fallen mankind. The goal of the world is self-glory, self-fulfillment, self-indulgence, self-satisfaction, and every other form of self-serving, all of which amounts to hostility toward God. While the world's philosophies and ideologies and much that it offers may appear attractive and appealing, that is deception.

Its true and pervasive nature is evil, harmful, ruinous, and satanic. God, not the world, must have the first place in the Christian's life (1 John 2:15).

James 4:1

Where do wars and fights come from among you? Do they not come from your desires for pleasure that war in your members? (*Romans 7:23-25, Galatians 5:17-18, 1 Peter 2:11-12*)



James 4:2

You lust and do not have. You murder and covet and cannot obtain. You fight and war. Yet you do not have because you do not ask.

James 4:3

You ask and do not receive, because you ask amiss, that you may spend it on your pleasures. (*Psalms 66:18*)

James 4:4

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. (*Romans 8:7*)

James 4:5-6

Or do you think that the Scripture says in vain, “The Spirit who dwells in us yearns jealously”? ⁶ But He gives more grace. Therefore He says: “God resists the proud, But gives grace to the humble.” (*Proverbs 16:18-19*)

James 4:7-8

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. (*1 Peter 5:5*)

James 4:9-10

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. (*Matthew 5:4*)



James 4:11

Do not speak evil of one another, brethren. He who speaks evil of a brother and judges his brother, speaks evil of the law and judges the law. But if you judge the law, you are not a doer of the law but a judge. *(Matthew 7:1-5)*

James 4:12

¹²There is one Lawgiver, who is able to save and to destroy. Who are you to judge another?

- 1. How do your actions reveal where your true affections lie? In what ways are you too enamored with the things of the world?**

- 2. In verses 2 and 3 James addresses the issue of improper motives in the prayers of unbelievers. Examine your on prayer life. How much of your prayer life is focused on selfish desires? How can you change this?**

- 3. Spend a few minutes meditating on James 4:11-12. How careful are you when speaking about others? What do you sense God is telling you from this passage?**
