

God's Friend > James 4:1-12

4:1-4 *The diagnosis: friendship with the world.* How can it be that Christians are a people who seek to live by faith, who pursue wisdom (3:13-18), and yet – on the other hand – are also ready to fight and divide at the drop of a hat? James answers that this is because we pursue the wrong things: that we make peace with the world and its ways rather than pursuing friendship with God.

4:5-10 *The cure: friendship with God.* What we are to pursue instead is the holiness that comes from drawing near to the Lord. Each of the commands that James gives builds into something that we desperately need: true humility. The result of true humility is that we will be exalted by the Lord!

4:11-12 *The treatment: speak and act as God's friend.* What does genuine humility look like? James gives an example that returns to an earlier point: it looks like using our words to reflect the truth that God is the Judge and we are not.

The Point: True wisdom looks like humility before the Lord – a humility that pursues holiness and seeks to use even our words to reflect God's wonderful rule.

Prayer: Father, it's so easy for us to say one thing while pursuing another. Teach us to value friendship with you above anything this world has to offer!

Application: Who are you befriending – the world and its ways? Or the Lord of heaven and earth? How will you pursue Jesus in your mind, heart, and actions this week?

Here is how I will apply these truths: _____
