



Warning Against Worldliness

10 minutes – Greeting & Fellowship

- Light refreshments (optional)
- Welcoming and Introducing new members or visitors to the Group
- Sharing upcoming events (Conferences, Seminars, Network Meetings, etc.)

20 minutes – This Week’s Discussion

Objective: Continue to study the Book of James and glean from his powerful teaching in regard to how we live our lives. We must be watchful and not fall into ungodly lifestyles!

Read James 4:1 – 4:4 – Beware of Worldliness!

- Another profound and challenging question from James will open our study, “what causes quarrels and what causes fights among you?” – we are about to learn more about the damaging nature of self-centered lives!
- James then follows up with a question that is an answer – it is the passions/pleasures that are at war within the believer!
- We read that our desire and covetousness lead to murder, fighting and quarrels.
- A key point can be seen in the reason we don’t receive when we do ask – when our reason for asking is self-centered – we are asking “wrongly”!
- James boldly declares the adulterous nature of being in friendship with the world and how it is enmity with God and the desire to be a friend of the world makes one an enemy to God!

Read James 4:5 – 4:10 – Submit to God – Resist the Enemy – Remain Humble!

- James hearkens back to instruction found in the Pentateuch, reminding believers that God has made it clear that He is a Jealous God – God is not accepting of those who desire the world and its pleasure to any level near their desire for Him!
- God desires to give more Grace, but He gives Grace to the humble, while opposing the proud.
- This is why we need to “Submit to God – Resist the enemy, causing him to flee!”
- God will draw near to those who draw near to Him!
- We need to cleanse our hands, purify our hearts and not be double-minded – seeking both the world and God – serving both the world and God! We must humble ourselves and seek God!
- In verse 9, we must be careful to understand the context. This is not a direct instruction to live miserably, but an exhortation to turn to God! For example, the worldly passions pulling us away from God were joyful to our flesh, we need to leave them behind and mourn that we were trapped in them and not faithfully serving God.

Read James 4:11 – 4:12 – There is but One Judge!

- We MUST remember that God alone is judge! We can look for Godly fruit and judge the fruit based on Scripture. We are not the Judge as God is Judge! Love, exhort and provoke to righteousness!



20 minutes – This Week’s Discussion Questions

Question 1: Do you understand that self-centered passions and pleasures create a “war” within us?

- It is sometimes easy to overlook, but the fact is, our daily goals and striving for success can be a huge “battlefield” – is success so important to us that we look past Godly principles?
- It can be quite easy to look past inconveniences to our “busy” schedules, with those inconveniences being opportunities to help someone, listen to someone or just fellowship with believers. Are we truly that busy? Or are we just too caught up in our own lives and neglect the Great Commission and the Biblical model of fellowship of believers? We are to Love God and love people.

Question 2: Resist the enemy and he will flee is a well-rehearsed verse in many lives. Do we fully understand the context from which James is making the statement?

- James is not just giving us a quote to declare when we feel we are under attack – “I resist you devil – now flee!” – no, James is giving us a big picture of the battle that we face.
- The first step in resisting the enemy is not some declaration – the first step is submitting to God!
- The enemy would prefer believers to be distracted and entangled in only believing that a slight rebuke would deter his plans. However, if we humbly submit to God and then resist the enemy – the enemy will flee! There is much more to what James teaches us, we need to study it deeply.
- We must be careful to understand that it is not all about us and our stance, but is all about our submission to God, reliance upon Him and centering all of our lives upon His Word, His Plan and His Will – that is true submission that makes the enemy flee!

Question 3: Do you understand why we must carefully judge fruit and not the person, as though we’re God?

- We are not God, we are not the Judge! We however look for Biblical Fruit and living in believers.

10 minutes – Closing in Prayer

- Pray that each person learn and apply a lifestyle based on our lesson
- Pray that the group keeps each other accountable in doing so
- Pray prayers of agreement with individuals with prayer requests
- Close with a prayer that everything be sealed by the Holy Spirit and for safety in traveling

Post Meeting Fellowship

- Leader should collect contact information from any new attendees
- Time of Post Meeting Fellowship does not have to be restrictive but held within reason
- Good time to share testimonies
- Be sure no one feels they are *obligated* to stay if they need to go

Dismiss the Group

- Post meeting – Leader should log in to Connect Leader’s Web Report and enter attendance and any new member or visitor information then submit the data