

# Are You With Me?

James 4:1-10

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**Big Idea / Sermon in a Sentence:** Our internal allegiance shapes the contours of our life with God and others.

*What causes quarrels and what causes fights among you? Is it not this, that your passions are at war within you? <sup>2</sup>You desire and do not have, so you murder. You covet and cannot obtain, so you fight and quarrel. You do not have, because you do not ask. <sup>3</sup>You ask and do not receive, because you ask wrongly, to spend it on your passions. <sup>4</sup>You adulterous people! Do you not know that friendship with the world is enmity with God? Therefore whoever wishes to be a friend of the world makes himself an enemy of God. <sup>5</sup>“Or do you consider that the Scripture speaks in this meaningless way: ‘the Spirit he made dwell in us yearns with sinful jealousy?’ <sup>6</sup>But he gives more grace. Therefore it says, “God opposes the proud, but gives grace to the humble.” <sup>7</sup>Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you. <sup>8</sup>Draw near to God, and he will draw near to you. Cleanse your hands, you sinners, and purify your hearts, you double-minded. <sup>9</sup>Grieve and mourn and weep. Let your laughter be turned to mourning and your gladness to gloom. <sup>10</sup>Humble yourselves before the Lord, and he will exalt you. James 4:1-10 (ESV and The Message of James, J.A. Motyer)*

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- **There is an internal root to our relational problems.**

“It would seem that Our Lord finds our desires not too strong, but too weak. We are half-hearted creatures, fooling about with drink and sex and ambition when infinite joy is offered us, like an ignorant child who wants to go on making mud pies in a slum because he cannot imagine what is meant by the offer of a holiday at the sea. We are far too easily pleased.” -C.S. Lewis

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- **Our God, who loves us deeply and fully, cannot be indifferent in whom (or what) we put our trust.**

### **Three questions to consider:**

- 1) Do you find yourself growing more in love with Jesus over the years?
- 2) Do you find yourself more willing to give control of your life to God?
- 3) Do you find yourself more free with your time, talent and treasure over the years?

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James 4:7-10 (ESV and The Message of James, J.A. Motyer)

**Our internal allegiance shapes the contours of our life.**

**Four major sub-points in verses 7-10:**

- 1) Are you with Me?
- 2) Transformation always involves the hands and heart.
- 3) Emotions should flow from conviction.
- 4) God loves to love on the humble.

**TIPS:**

- 1) Don't be paralyzed in fear of not including God enough.
- 2) What one does matters less than why one does it.
- 3) Try a "prayer practice" this week.  
Make a list of the top 10-15 things in your life. Create some space to bring your list to God. Pray Psalm 143:8 - *"Let the morning bring me word of your unfailing love, for I have put my trust in you. Show me the way I should go, for to you I entrust my life.* Having prayed, pay attention to any invitations from God and/or any resistance you might feel surface.
- 4) Nothing beats community discernment.