

Why are we here? What is our purpose? Were we put on this earth to please ourself or are we to live to please God?

I think we all know how we should answer that question, but how do we truly live? Our lifestyle, our thoughts, the things that are important to us - they are the true indicators of what we view our purpose to be. Our lives don't lie even though our tongues can.

DAY ONE

Let's work on some new memory verses. Work on James 4:1-4 this week. As you work on memorizing these verses, let the words flow over your heart and mind. Are you being a faithful bride or are you an adulterous? What does your life indicate to you and to those around you?

1. Let's start this week by reading James chapters 1-4. Watch how chapter 4 ties in to all that James has taught you through the first three chapters. Record your insights.
2. James begins chapter 4 with a question and then immediately answers the question with another question. What are those two questions?
3. Read James 4:2. What problem does James seem to be addressing with his readers?

4. Read James 4:1-12. Keeping in mind the author's purpose, audience, and his pattern or style of writing, let's reason through some questions. Think carefully and do your best to answer the questions, defending your answers through James's own words.
- a. In this passage, is James addressing believers? Why or why not?

 - b. Are these people literally murdering people?

 - c. Is he speaking about conflicts between individuals or literal wars between nations?

 - d. Why do these people not have what they desire?

 - e. When they ask or pray, why does God not give them what they ask for?

 - f. What is the basic problem between these people?

 - g. Can you trace the problems from its root to its fruit?

DAY TWO

1. Today you are going to spend time doing some word studies and cross references, as you seek to understand these first twelve verses.
2. Look up the following words in your Greek study tools. Be sure to record the number, the transliteration, and its meaning.
 - a. pleasures (lusts - KJV) - James 4:1

1) Look at these verses which use the same word. Read them in their context and record how they may apply. Luke 8:14

2) Titus 3:3

3) II Peter 2:13

b. commit murder (kill - KJV) - James 4:2

c. ask with wrong motives (ask amiss - KJV) - James 4:3

- b. Is there anything wrong with enjoying the beauty of the world around us or the people in it? What exactly is James trying to say?
- c. How do a person's lusts relate to being friends with the world?
- d. Ephesians 2:1-2 talks about the "course of this world." The Greek word aion is used for "course" and Kosmos is used for "world". Look up this phrase and see if it gives you any insights to this idea of being "friends with the world."
- e. Read Titus 2:12. "Worldly" is kosmikos and the word "age" is aion. How does this relate to James 4:4?
- f. Read John 15:18-21 and John 16:11. What do you learn about the world (kosmos)?

- g. Now let's look at I John 2:15-17. Record how this pertains to our James passage.
- h. Romans 12:2 uses aion for "world." What does this verse tell us we should do and not do?
5. Summarize what you have learned about being friends with the world. Do your actions show that you are the world's friend?

DAY THREE

As you seek to understand your responsibility to live in this world but not be part of this world, make sure you spend time before the Lord in prayer and ask that He examine your heart and mind and reveal that which needs to be changed in your life.

1. Read through James 4:1-12 and watch for the theme of worldliness. This whole section of Scripture is teaching you how to deal with worldliness in your life. If you don't keep this in mind, you will get lost in this passage. James is communicating something very important to you, you just need to be diligent to hear.
2. God uses a label (and not a very kind label) for those who are God's children and become friends with the world. What is the label? Why do you think He uses that term? Look up the following verses and answer that question.

a. II Corinthians 11:2-3

b. Ephesians 5:23-32

c. Revelation 19:7-8

3. Can a Christian commit spiritual adultery? Look up Ezekiel 6:9-10. How does a Christian's adultery affect God?

DAY FOUR

Have you ever felt the pull of the world in your life? Of course you have. We all have! Satan desires to pull us off the path that God has called us to follow. How are we to deal with this problem?

We are called to run to God - cry out to Him. Confess your weakness and seek His strength, comfort, and help. His grace is sufficient for all your needs. You just need to be willing to admit that you are not strong enough for this battle alone.

1. Look at the wonderful promise in James 4:6. "He gives a greater grace!" It is greater than the pull of the world. Greater than the powers of darkness. Greater than the trails and temptations. Greater than the envy of worldliness. Who receives this grace and under what conditions is it received? Answer this question from James 4:6.
2. Now Read James 4:7-10. Can you see how these verses correspond to verse 6?
3. In verses 7-10 there is a list of commands. Remember that these commands deal with the pull of worldliness in our lives. List the commands.

4. Now read James 4:11-12. Did James just change the subject or are these verses somehow related to what he has just finished saying? Answer the following questions.

a. If someone speaks against his brother, what is he doing?

b. What law would he be speaking against? Let's look at a couple of verses.

1) Leviticus 19:15-18

2) Mark 12:31

3) Romans 13:8-10

c. According to James 4:11, you are either a doer of the law or a judge of the law. What does that mean?

5. Read Galatians 5:13-16. Can you see any parallels to James 4:1-12?

4) James 2:13 - krisis

5) James 4:11 - krino (first 3 uses); krites (the 4th use)

6) James 4:12 - krites, krino

7) James 5:9 - krino, krites

8) another word can be diakrino which translates as “doubt,” “judge,” “contend,” is translated “doubting” (wavering - KJV) and “doubts” (wavereth - KJV) in James 1:6. In James 2:4, it is translated as “made distinctions” (be partial - KJV).

8. What have you learned about judging from this study today?

DAY FIVE

1. Today we are going to look at other Scriptures that have to do with judging. Make sure to read each verse in its context. All of these verses use the Greek word "krino." It is very important for you to understand what to judge, when to judge, or if we are to be judging at all. Record what you learn from each verse. This is by no means an exhaustive list, but it should give you plenty to ponder!

a. John 3:17-18

b. John 12:48

c. Acts 4:19

d. Acts 16:14-15

e. Romans 14:3-13

f. I Corinthians 4:5

g. I Corinthians 5:3

h. I Corinthians 6:2-3

i. I Corinthians 10:15

j. I Corinthians 10:29

k. I Corinthians 11:13

l. I Corinthians 11:31-32

m. Colossians 2:16

n. Hebrews 10:30

o. I Peter 1:17; 2:23

