July 8, 2007

JAMES 4:3-6

God values ***peace***.*

Your problems in your relationships with other people are because you have a problem in your relationship ***with God***.

Conflict in our relationships with others is rooted in ***spiritual adultery***.

To be a "friend" is to be on good terms with, to regard kindly, to see with ***affection***.

The "world" in Scripture is the ***man***-centered, Satan-directed system of this life which is ***hostile*** to God, to Christ, and to Christians.

To be a "friend of the world" is to make the ***world's*** agenda our agenda.

James is talking about the way you ***think*** and what you ***desire***. He's saying that worldly thinking and fights & quarrels go together.

The world's agenda is exaltation of ***self***.

When you get involved in fights and quarrels that ***dishonor*** God and ***harm*** one another, you prove you are living by the world's agenda and not God's.

Your relationships with others are a ***test*** of your relationship with God.

God desires that His people be wholly and unreservedly ***devoted*** to Him.

Any lack of ***love*** for a neighbor in word or deed reflects some deficiency in your love for God. And that's why James says that human conflict is rooted in spiritual ***adultery***.

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