



Lesson #6: The Most Dangerous Friend You'll Ever Have (James 4)

There are two opposing kingdoms that rule in the universe.

- 1) The Kingdom of God which is a kingdom of _____ and _____
- 2) The Kingdom of Satan which is a kingdom of _____ and _____

These kingdoms are mutually exclusive so that you cannot be in both at the same time. Paul asked, "What fellowship has _____ with _____?" It is an impossibility, then, to be a soldier for Christ while helping to fight for the world.

Did you know that there is a friendship you can have that would cause you to be an enemy of God? This friendship is a friendship with the _____ (James 4:4). We are all drawn to the pleasures the world has to offer but the truth is that the world is the most dangerous friend you will ever have! For five weeks we've been talking about friendship and it's time that we got real about just how dangerous bad friends can be. It's time that we took a long hard look at our friends. After all, Paul warned us, "Be not deceived: evil communications corrupt good manners" (1 Corinthians 15:3).

THERE IS A REAL _____ THAT PUSHES YOU TOWARDS THIS DANGEROUS FRIENDSHIP (James 4:1-2)

As members of a fallen, broken world we seek to build other "relationships" up in an attempt to replicate or replace a proper relationship with God.

A. Dangerous friendships are appealing because they feed off our _____ inclinations

When it comes to "worldly friends" there are some who will arrogantly think, "I'd never befriend someone who is so obviously living in sin." That is a sad statement for any of us to say let alone think! How often in Scripture do we have to be warned "take heed lest you _____" until we get it!? The truth is that there really is a strong appeal towards these kind of dangerous friendships.

B. Dangerous friendships are appealing because they fuel our _____

Ultimately, the cause of being drawn into bad friendships is our own _____ desires.

THERE ARE REAL _____ FOR HAVING THESE DANGEROUS FRIENDSHIP (James 4:3-6)

Every friendship will influence us in some way but there are some incredibly dangerous friendships that will put us in a terrible situation. These are the friendships that will cause us to be friends of the world and thus enemies of God.

A. Friends of the world _____ selfishly (v. 3)

What is it that James' readers wanted to have. The context suggests the answer: these people wanted to gain _____ as leaders in the community (3:1; 3:13). Selfishness causes one to pray with tarnished motives; which cannot and will not be honored by God.

B. Friends of the world _____ selfishly (v. 4)

The people you choose to get close to will determine much about your life. Choose the right friends and they will influence you for _____ and solidify your correct choices. Choose the wrong friends and you will have no reinforcement for _____ decisions. In fact, they will lead you astray.

THERE ARE REAL _____ THAT CAN GET RID OF THIS DANGEROUS FRIENDSHIP (James 4:7-10)

We cannot be friends of this world. That much is abundantly clear in James 4:4. But what are the steps necessary for getting rid of this dangerous friendship?

A. It takes genuine _____ (v. 6-7, 10)

You cannot choose your own way in pride, defiantly rebelling against God and then expect his favor. He resists the _____. James uses three important words to explain his point.

- "Proud" – That word literally means "one who shows himself _____ other people."
- "Opposed" – The idea of the word is "to stand _____." God takes His stand to do battle against the proud.
- "Humble" – This word is the theme of verses 7-10. The humble are those who have turned from their proud, self-centered attention on self to living for God and His will for them.

B. It takes genuine _____ (v. 8-9)

"Renounce the _____, if we wish to _____ God." We must get honest about our sins. Hidden things in the closet only makes things worse for our relationship with God.

Concluding Thoughts

This truth cannot be reiterated enough:

"A person becomes more like those they _____ with."

This is why it is critically important to choose your friends wisely (Prov. 13:20). Just like we are told, "you are what you eat" so too we are warned to "make no friendship with an angry man ... lest thou learn his way" (Prov. 22:24-25). The world, then, is the most dangerous friend you will ever have!