

Finish Looking At What James Says About Spiritual Adultery.

Not literal.

▶▶ Spiritual unfaithfulness.

Outline.

▶▶ 4a, ~ (LEB) Adulterous people! ⇔⇔ Context: ~ because making friends with the world.

▶▶ 4b-c, ~ explains why ~ friendship with the world is sp. adultery.

▶▶ 5, ~ A Reminder Of God's Intense Desire ~ That His People Be Wholly And Unreservedly ~ His.

▷▷ As we'll see, ~ James is using this reminder to provide the scriptural proof ~ ¶¶

↳↳ that unfaithfulness to God is spiritual adultery.

▶▶ And 6, ~ note of encouragement, ~ explicit offer of grace ~ to those who ~ ¶¶

▷▷ reject friendship with the world ~ and humbly submit to God.

Review The 2 Main Points From Our Look At Verse 4.

1st, ~ Begins w/ shocking address, 4,

▶▶ (LEB) Adulterous people! 1/14

▶▶ What James says ~ in the subsequent verses implies ~ that his scattered flock ~ 77

▷▷ wanted to embrace both God and the world, ~ and therefore were labeled adulteresses.

▶▶ This is a warning to all believers ~ who seek to embrace ~ both God & the world.

▷▷ By seeking friendship with the world we are, ~ in effect, ~ committing spiritual adultery.

▷▷ Divided loyalties.

↪↪ We want the spouse and the home, ~~ but we also want the lover.

→→ I.e., ~ want to embrace ~ both Jesus and the world.

2nd main point, ~ in 4b-c explains why friendship w/ world is sp. adultery.

▶▶ 1st, ~ 4b, ~ enmity with God.

▷▷ James says ~ being friends with the world ~ is the same ~ as hating God.

▷▷ In this friendship w/ the world ~ we are aligning ourselves with ~ persons, ~ forces, ~ and things ~ hostile to God.

▶▶ 2nd reason friendship w/ the world is sp. adultery.

▷▷ 4c (ESJ) Whoever therefore chooses ~ to be a friend of the world ~ makes himself ~ an enemy of God. 2/14

▷▷ This logically follows.

↳↳ If the world is hostile toward God, ~ ¶¶

→→ then whoever is a friend of this hostile world, ~ automatically makes themselves God's enemy.

Now Let's Finish Talk On Sp. Adultery.

Vs. 5, ~ A Reminder Of God's Intense Desire ~ That His People Be Wholly And Unreservedly ~ His.

Or do you suppose it is to no purpose that the Scripture says, "He yearns jealously over the spirit that he has made to dwell in us"?

▶▶ As we'll see, ~ James is using this reminder ~ to provide the scriptural proof ~ ¶¶

▷▷ that unfaithfulness to God is spiritual adultery.

5a forms the intro to James' quote of Scripture.

▶▶ Or do you suppose ~ it is to no purpose that the Scripture says.

▷▷ I.e., ~ do you think ~ Scripture speaks without meaning what it says?

▶▶ Imp.: ~ well aware that Scripture does not speak ~ w/out meaning what it says.

▷▷ Just as in the case of them knowing friendship w/ world is enmity with God, ~ they knew this as well. 3/14

IOW, ~ this was common knowledge ~ to James' original recipients.

▶▶ Again, ~ their behavior ~ implied a rejection ~ of what they knew ~ but refused to live by.

▶▶ They could not claim innocence or ignorance in this matter.

▶▶ But as we noted, ~ before we're tempted to look down on these early believers, ~ 77

▷▷ how often have we been guilty of this?

▶▶ We know, ~ just as well as they did, ~ Scripture means everything it says.

▷▷ How often ~ have we refused to act ~ on biblical truth ~ that we're well aware of?

↳↳ Therefore, ~ neither can we ~ claim innocence or ignorance.

Call attention to form of Grk. vb. for says.

▶▶ It emphasizes ~ the ongoing relevance ~ of Scripture. ⇔⇔ Never goes out of date.

▶▶ It is just as relevant today ~ and will be tomorrow ~ as it was when it was penned.

▶▶ 2nd Tim. 3:16-17, ~ NIV, ~ All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, so that the servant of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work.

▶▶ Heb. 4:12, ~ For the word of God is living and active, sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing to the division of soul and of spirit, of joints and of marrow, and discerning the thoughts and intentions of the heart. 4/14

▶▶ Though the Bible was completed approximately 1,900 years ago, ~ 77

▷▷ it remains absolutely relevant ~ to the spiritual needs of people today.

▶▶ Scripture will never be irrelevant.

▷▷ That's because ~ it addresses the universal needs of all people ~ 77

↳↳ to know God, ~ to experience forgiveness, ~ and to know how the Lord would have us live.

▶▶ Times may change, ~ but God's Word does not.

▷▷ All people are like grass, and all their glory is like the flowers of the field; the grass withers and the flowers fall, but the word of the Lord endures forever.

▶▶ In it ~ we find principles ~ that change our lives still today.

Next, ~ in the quote that follows its intro ~ James does not cite a specific passage.

▶▶ What he seems to be doing is ~ summarizing a prevalent OT theme ~ 77

▷▷ of God's desire ~ that his people be ~ wholly and unreservedly ~ his.

▶▶ We see summaries of themes elsewhere.

▷▷ Wd Scripture ~ in John 7:37-39 ~ refers to an allusive reference or theme.

▷▷ Likewise Gal. 3:22a. ~ But the Scripture imprisoned everything under sin. 5/14

↪↪Paul does not cite specific verses ~ but appeals to the scriptural tradition ~ as found in *Genesis*.

▶▶This being so, ~ in *James 4:5*, ~ we can identify that which Scripture speaks about ~ ¶¶

▷▷as the biblical theme ~ that God's people be wholly and unreservedly ~ his.

↪↪Ex. 20:1-6

→→Concordance work.

▶▶James meant ~ that the substance of OT teaching ~ supports this concept regarding friendship w/ world.

▷▷Just as persons may say today, ~ "The Bible says," ~ with the sense of ~ "the Bible teaches," ~ ¶¶

↪↪without intending to refer ~ to a particular chapter and verse.

Now look at the bulk of vs 5.

▶▶Or do you suppose it is to no purpose that the Scripture says, "He yearns jealously over the spirit that he has made to dwell in us"?

▶▶A reminder of God's strong desire ~ that his people be wholly and unreservedly ~ his.

▷▷I.e., ~ his intense desire ~ for our undivided loyalty and love.

▶▶And, ~ we should add, ~ he expects this exclusivity ~ ¶¶

▷▷and ~ he tolerates no rivals ~ for our undivided loyalty and love. 6/14

▶▶ This, ~ I suggest, ~ is all wrapped up in the biblical concept of God's jealousy.

▶▶ And as we'll see in just a very little bit, ~ 77

▷▷ James is using this reminder ~ to provide the scriptural proof ~ that unfaithfulness to God ~ is spiritual adultery.

Warning.

▶▶ Do not apply our concept of jealousy to God.

▶▶ The adjective jealous in modern English speech ~ always carries bad overtones ~ 77

▷▷ and means resentful about and envious of ~ what belongs to someone else.

▶▶ Never apply any sinful aspects to Jesus.

▷▷ Darkness not in him.

▶▶ When used of God, ~ it implies a righteous/holy jealousy.

▷▷ Which entails what we described a few minutes ago.

James 4:5 ~ is the most difficult verse in James.

▶▶ Some scholars call it ~ one of the most difficult verses ~ in the entire NT.

▶▶ We are faced with the possibility ~ of multiple translations and interpretations.

▷▷ These stem from several ambiguities in the Greek text. 7/14

▶▶ So we must not be dogmatic ~ in our interpretation of it.

▷▷ Neither must we be critical ~ if other translations ~ don't match the one we use.

▶▶ In this case, ~ the question is not, ~ which translation is the correct one?

▷▷ The question is, ~ which of the several possibilities ~ seems to fit best?

▶▶ E.g., ~ some translations point ~ to human envy.

▷▷ Others point ~ to God's holy jealousy for His people.

▷▷ Holy Spirit/Human spirit.

Grammar & context take precedent in interpretation. *Align self w/ those who adhere*

▶▶ Grammatically & contextually, ~ ¶¶

▷▷ the interpretation that James is referring to God's jealousy for His people, ~ seems to fit best.

↳↳ ESV ~ He yearns jealously over the spirit that he has made to dwell in us.

▷▷ Interpretation that human spirit seems to fit best as well.

↳↳ Gen. 2:7, ~ then the Lord God ~ formed the man of dust from the ground ~ ¶¶

→→ and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life, ~ and the man became a living creature. 8/14

▶▶ In vs 4a, ~ James noted that unfaithfulness to God ~ is spiritual adultery.

▷▷ 4b-c, ~ reasons unfaithfulness to God ~ is spiritual adultery.

▶▶ Does not switch subjects between 4 & 5.

▷▷ Still talking about a believer's unfaithfulness to God.

↳↳ E.g., ~ interp. as human envy ~ ¶¶

→→ jumps over immediate context ~ back to Godly vs Worldly wisdom.

▷▷ No, ~ still talking about a believer's unfaithfulness to God.

▶▶ Grammatically & contextually, ~ vs 5 ~ provides the scriptural proof ~ ¶¶

▷▷ that unfaithfulness to God is spiritual adultery.

In vs 5, ~ James reminds us that Scripture teaches ~ ¶¶

▶▶ that God intensely desires his peoples' undivided loyalty and love, ~ ¶¶

▷▷ that he expects this exclusivity ~ and ~ that he tolerates no rivals for our undivided loyalty and love.

▶▶ Logical conclusion.

▷▷ Not giving him this exclusivity ~ is sp. adultery.

↳↳ And James gives us ~ the scriptural proof that this is so. 9/14

Please understand, ~ God has every right ~ to this exclusivity.

▶▶1st, ~ he has every right ~ to this exclusivity ~ as our Creator.

▷▷Is. 64:8, ~ But now, O Lord, you are our Father; we are the clay, and you are our potter; we are all the work of your hand.

↪↪Speaks of God's sovereignty over us ~ and indicates that we owe our very existence to him. ⇒⇒ God gives to all mankind life and breath.

▷▷And Is. 29:16, ~ You turn things upside down! Shall the potter be regarded as the clay, that the thing made should say of its maker, "He did not make me"; or the thing formed say of him who formed it, "He has no understanding"?

↪↪God is the magnificent Creator, ~ who ~ in his infinite wisdom ~ put the human body together ~ and gave man a soul.

→→Formed his inward parts, ~~ knitted him together in his mother's womb.

▷▷Job 38:1-6

▶▶And 2nd, ~ he has every right ~ to our undivided loyalty and love ~ as our Savior and Lord.

▷▷You are not your own; you were bought at a price. Therefore honor God with your bodies 1 Cor 6:19b-20, NIV).

▷▷Pay careful attention to yourselves and to all the flock, in which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers, to care for the church of God, which he obtained with his own blood (Acts 20:28).

Furthermore, ~ our God ~ deserves ~ and is worthy of ~ our exclusive loyalty and love.

▶▶Because of what he's done for us. ⇒⇒ E.g., ~ Eph. 2:1-6. 10/14

Not to give him ~ this exclusivity ~ is a slap in his face ~ and shows ingratitude and disrespect toward him.

▶▶Israelites constantly guilty of this.

Back to vs 5.

▶▶The word for ~ yearns, ~ is used by the Septuagint in Ps. 41:2 (42:1).

▷▷As a deer pants for flowing streams, so pants my soul for you, O God.

▷▷Quite a picture ~ of the longing of the soul for God!

▷▷One can visualize the deer, ~ in a parched land, ~ neck outstretched, ~ 77

↪↪seeking to get the scent of water, ~ without which it will surely perish.

▷▷So is the psalmist's thirst for God.

▶▶And James is telling us, ~ that God pants ~ for our undivided loyalty and love.

▷▷We certainly don't deserve this. ⇔⇔ We act unfaithfully.

▷▷And what does he do?

↪↪He pants for our undivided loyalty and love.

→→Oh, ~ how He loves you; ~~ Oh, how he loves me; ~~ Oh, ~ how he loves you and me. 11/14

Scripture teaches ~ that God intensely desires his peoples' undivided loyalty and love, ~ 77

▶▶ that he expects this exclusivity ~ and ~ 77

▷▷ that he tolerates no rivals for our undivided loyalty and love.

▶▶ Is this for his good? ⇔⇔ No.

▷▷ He does not need our loyalty or love.

↪↪ He is complete w/in his Triune nature.

▶▶ Is he being selfish? ⇔⇔ No.

▶▶ I strongly suggest, ~ God's intense desire for our undivided loyalty & love, ~ 77

▷▷ his expectation of this exclusivity, ~ and his intolerance for rivals ~ is for our good.

▶▶ The only place we can possess ~ sweet fellowship with him, ~ true joy, ~ 77

▷▷ and abundant sp. blessings ~ is in a 100% commitment to him.

And 6, ~ Statement Of Great Encouragement.

An explicit offer of grace ~ to those who ~ reject friendship with the world and humbly submit to God.

▶▶ But he gives more grace. Therefore it says, "God opposes the proud but gives grace to the humble." 12/14

▶▶ Empowering grace.

▷▷ Divine enablement.

↪↪ I.e., ~ the strength from God ~ to reject friendship with the world ~ and ~ to humbly submit to him.

▶▶ The Lord knows ~ that we cannot reject the world and submit to him in our own strength.

▶▶ So he graciously holds out the promise to give us the strength to do it, ~ 77

▷▷ once we make a 100% commitment to him.

▶▶ The empowering grace we need ~ may come in various ways.

▷▷ But it will come.

The great encouragement for believers ~ is that God does not cast us off when we stumble.

▶▶ Instead He gives more grace.

▷▷ More than enough ~ to match the attractions of this world.

▷▷ More than sufficient ~ to ward off the devil and overcome our sin nature.

▶▶ By supplying His empowering grace, ~ which is the means of our victory, ~ 77

▷▷ our heavenly Father ~ expresses His yearning for his children and our spiritual welfare. 13/14

It was in light of this truth ~ that God has spoken in Scripture.

▶▶ God opposes the proud but gives grace to the humble.

▷▷ James has quoted the LXX rendering of Proverbs 3:34, ~ a passage used also by Peter (1 Peter 5:5).

▶▶ It reminds believers ~ that those ~ who proudly turn from God ~ 77

▷▷ and choose to be friends of the world ~ must face God's opposition.

▶▶ The world ~ with its more immediate rewards ~ ministers to their pride.

▷▷ And its wisdom ~ can foster human egos and often advance their ambitions.

▶▶ God, ~ however, ~ ministers His grace to the humble.

▶▶ Those who are willing to repudiate the world and give God 100% ~ will find ~ 77

▷▷ that God's provision of empowering grace for each day ~ will be their greatest resource. 14/14