

# **Friend Of The World**

**1-11-26**

James 4:4 (ESV)

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.

**God desires a wholehearted unobstructed relationship with HIS people. By its very nature, then, “our friendship with the world is adulterous hatred toward God.” To have a warm, familiar attitude toward this evil world is to be on good terms with God’s enemy. The person who deliberately “chooses to be a friend of the world” by that choice “becomes” an enemy of God. This may seem shocking. Therefore, to understand the dynamic of God’s desired relationship with believers, God uses the God ordained marriage to help us. The marriage relationship gives us a picture of the full and intimate relationship that God desires with HIS people. Apostle Paul said:**

2 Corinthians 11:2 (ESV)

For I feel a divine jealousy for you, since I betrothed you to one husband, to present you as a pure virgin to Christ.

**The correlation between the marriage relationship and God's desired relationship with us is further revealed in Ephesians 5:22-32.**

Ephesians 5:22–23 (ESV)

<sup>22</sup> Wives, submit to your own husbands, as to the Lord. <sup>23</sup> For the husband is the head of the wife even as Christ is the head of the church, his body, and is himself its Savior.

**Note the terms for marriage: as to the Lord; even as Christ; and Savior. The full force of the correlation comes in verse 25.**

Ephesians 5:25 (ESV)

Husbands, love your wives, as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her.

**God makes clear that HIS desired relationship with believers is a love relationship as revealed in marriage as God meant marriage to be.**

Ephesians 5:32 (ESV)

This mystery is profound, and I am saying that (marriage) refers to Christ and the church.

**Therefore, as with physical unfaithfulness, God regards spiritual unfaithfulness as adultery.**

**No husband would be pleased with less than an exclusive relationship; God will never be satisfied with partial devotion. God makes a strong statement. People who want friendship with the world indicates that they are God's enemy. The following verse, verse 5, tells us the Scriptures declare God's desire for faithfulness.**

James 4:5 (ESV)

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?"

**This verse is one of the most difficult in this epistle and also one of the most important. Various translations have been suggested. In verse 4, James has accused his readers of spiritual unfaithfulness. It is natural, therefore, to expect verse 5 to speak of God's jealous longing for HIS people's love. There are OT passages that refer to God as jealously desiring the devotion of his people.**

Exodus 20:5 (ESV)

You shall not bow down to idols or serve them, for I the LORD your God am a jealous God.

**God is a jealous husband who will not tolerate adultery on the part of HIS “bride.” Looking at the various translations, I believe that the NCV most clearly captures the meaning “which is” God desiring the love of HIS people who have fallen in love with the world.**

James 4:5 (NCV)

Do you think the Scripture means nothing that says, “The Spirit that God made to live in us wants us (with intense jealousy) for himself alone.”

**Not rules but relationship! Royal Law of Love!**

1 John 4:19 (ESV)

We love because he first loved us.

**Our Christian challenge, we see God loves us and therefore we love HIM back!**

**John 3:16 is especially applicable here.**

John 3:16 (ESV)

**For God so loved the world**, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life.