

"Four Questions For You From God"

James 4:1-6 (NIV)

Pastor Bob Brandhagen

*I. Our Fights Come From Our Dueling Desires*

What causes fights and quarrels among you? Don't they come from your desires that battle within you?

<sup>2</sup>You desire but do not have, so you kill. You covet but you cannot get what you want, so you quarrel and fight.

Fighting among God's children is too common, and so is lack of prayer:

*II. Our Lack Comes From Not Asking God*

You do not have because you do not ask God.

Even when we do pray we sometimes do not receive what we requested. Why?

*III. Our Lack When We Do Ask Comes From Ill Motives*

<sup>3</sup>When you ask, you do not receive, because you ask with wrong motives, that you may spend what you get on your pleasures.

Problems in the church are many: fighting, not praying, but also picking bad friends:

*IV. Our Friendship w/ the World Makes Us God's Enemy*

<sup>4</sup>You adulterous people, don't you know that friendship with the world means enmity against God? Therefore, anyone who chooses to be a friend of the world becomes an enemy of God. <sup>5</sup>Or do you think Scripture says without reason that he jealously longs for the spirit he has caused to dwell in us? <sup>6</sup>But he gives us more grace. That is why Scripture says: "God opposes the proud but shows favor to the humble."

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The Sermon-in-a-Sentence: Life is all about fights and pleasures and death when we choose friendship with the world instead of friendship with God and His people.

The Applications: (1) Stop fighting God's people; (2) start praying and don't stop; (3) stop being a friend of the world.

The Big Story: We become enemies of other believers when we fight. We become enemies of God when we befriend the world. But believers and God already have a cosmic enemy, and that is Satan. We join Satan's side when we fight the church and befriend the world.

The Big Question: Is there conclusive evidence in your life that you are not a friend of the world but a friend of God?

The Gospel: "Now, brothers and sisters, I want to remind you of the gospel I preached to you, which you received and on which you have taken your stand. <sup>2</sup>By this gospel you are saved, if you hold firmly to the word I preached to you. Otherwise, you have believed in vain. <sup>3</sup>For what I received I passed on to you as of first importance: that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, <sup>4</sup>that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day according to the Scriptures, <sup>5</sup>and that he appeared. . ." (1 Cor 15:1-5a).

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