

February 19, 2023

## “Self-Love” James 4

Vol.13 Num. 8

### Using This Study

#### ❶ EXAMINE His Word

What does God SAY? Open your time with prayer. The words God uses to communicate matters, so go back and pay close attention to the details that are emphasized or repeated in the passage.

#### ❷ EXPLORE His Word

What does God MEAN? Asking questions of the text helps surface how the details relate to the message God wants to communicate.

#### ❸ EMBRACE His Word

Why does it MATTER to me? Embrace God by responding to what you discover in His word in faith and obedience.



The Book of James might be called “*The Gospel of Ouch!*” Have you noticed in our studies, how James always seems to step on our spiritual toes? Perhaps because we know James is right...we all struggle with the problem of “*Me, Myself and I.*”

In this week’s lesson, James addresses the problem of self-love. We don’t have to search hard to find a person who is self-focused. All we have to do is look in the mirror. So, what does a self-focused person look like? Well, it’s a person that is constantly pre-occupied with himself and his agenda. It’s a disease that has infected humanity since the Garden of Eden.

Social media is forever luring us into thinking about ourselves. For example, Beats Head Phones ran an ad in 2015 featuring basketball player LeBron James saying, “*You Deserve the Best.*” In 1991, Loreal Hair Products had an ad featuring actress Cybil Shepherd, saying “*Because I’m Worth It!*” Burger King ran an ad in 1974 that said, “*Have It Your Way.*” And who can ever forget the popular 1971 McDonald’s commercial that said “*You Deserve a Break Today.*” And the list goes on-an-on.

So how are we to deal with the disease of “*Me, Myself and I*”? Join us this week and learn what



James 4 has to suggest.

## James 4 – ESV

### **Warning Against Worldliness**

<sup>1</sup>“What causes quarrels and what causes fights among you? Is it not this, that your passions are at war within you? <sup>2</sup>You desire and do not have, so you murder. You covet and cannot obtain, so you fight and quarrel. You do not have, because you do not ask. <sup>3</sup>You ask and do not receive, because you ask wrongly, to spend it on your passions. <sup>4</sup>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. <sup>5</sup>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”? <sup>6</sup>But he gives more grace. Therefore, it says, “God opposes the proud but gives grace to the humble.” <sup>7</sup>Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you. <sup>8</sup>Draw near to God, and he will draw near to you. Cleanse your hands, you sinners, and purify your hearts, you double-minded. <sup>9</sup>Be wretched and mourn and weep. Let your laughter be turned to mourning and your joy to gloom. <sup>10</sup>Humble yourselves before the Lord, and he will exalt you.

<sup>11</sup>Do not speak evil against one another, brothers. The one who speaks against a brother or judges his brother, speaks evil against the law and judges the law. But if you judge the law, you are not a doer of the law but a judge. <sup>12</sup>There is only one lawgiver and judge, he who is able to save and to destroy. But who are you to judge your neighbor?

### **Boasting About Tomorrow**

<sup>13</sup>Come now, you who say, “Today or tomorrow we will go into such and such a town and spend a year there and trade and make a profit”— <sup>14</sup>yet you do not know what tomorrow will bring. What is your life? For you are a mist that appears for a little time and then vanishes. <sup>15</sup>Instead you ought to say, “If the Lord wills, we will live and do this or that.” <sup>16</sup>As it is, you boast in your arrogance. All such boasting is evil. <sup>17</sup>So whoever knows the right thing to do and fails to do it, for him it is sin.

**o EXAMINE His Word (Observation)** (For personal preparation)

**What does God SAY? Prayerfully note significant details from this passage.**

Make 10 of your own observations from these passages. Avoid jumping to make interpretive decisions or drawing applications. Save those for the sections that follow. At this point just observe this passage and what it says. Look for things that are emphasized, repeated, and what stands out to you. Look at the verbs, what actions are in the text? Who is involved in the text? There is no right or wrong answer, just list 10 things you see in the text.

1.

2.

3.

4.

5.

6.

7.

8.

9.

10.

**2 EXPLORE His Word (Interpretation)** (For Community Group discussion)  
What does God MEAN?

1. In **Verses 1-3**, list the things that cause troubled relationships with others.
2. In **Verse 4**, what is the result of Christians being friendly with the world?
3. In **Verse 5**, what does Scripture say God is jealous for?
4. In **Verse 6**, who does God oppose?
5. In **Verse 7**, what two things help us have victory over Satan?
6. In **Verses 8-10**, list the things that enhance our relationship with God.
7. In **Verses 11-12**, when a Christian slanders and judges another Christian without cause, what is he actually doing? (See **Matthew 7:1-5; I Corinthians 5:9-13**).
8. In **Verses 13-16** why is bragging about our future plans so pointless?
9. In **Verse 17**, what is a Christian actually doing when he fails to do the “right thing”? (See **Romans 7:15-25**)

③ **EMBRACE His Word (Application)** (For Community Group discussion)  
Why does this MATTER to me?

From **James 4**, (honestly) evaluate the following:

10. Yourself.

11. Your relationship with other Christians.

12. Your relationship with God.

Summarize your thoughts on the passage

Write about what God wants you to **KNOW**, to **FEEL**, and to **DO**...

## **Sermon Outline and Notes**