

# Christ Centered Life – Part 1

*James 4: 1 – 5*

*Solid Rock Church*

*Pastor Elliott Anderson*





---

Accept the present as is and move forward with optimism.

Recognize your current reality is exactly what you're experiencing.

Embrace yourself, and others as they are—not as you wish they were.

Create a purpose and a focus that brings fulfillment and security.



## James 1 – 4

### **Believers Need to Be:**

- 1: Patient in troubles
- 2: Practicing truth
- 3: Power over tongues
- 4: Prioritized peacemakers

# Man's Wisdom



**James 3: 14 – 16,** But if you have bitter jealousy and selfish ambition in your hearts, do not boast and be false to the truth. That is not the wisdom that comes from above, but is earthly, unspiritual, demonic. For where jealousy and selfish ambition exists, there will be disorder and every vile practice.

# God's Wisdom

**James 3: 17 – 18,** But the wisdom from above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, reasonable, full of mercy and good fruits, unwavering, without hypocrisy. And the seed whose fruit is righteousness is sown in peace by those who make peace.



# Authoritative Peacemaking

**James 4** uses direct, confrontational language—heavily featuring "you," "your," and "yours"—to indict believers for adopting worldly behaviors and neglecting their relationship with God.

The focus on "you" highlights personal responsibility, focusing on internal motives and actions – discipline and accountability

**James uses “you or yours” 15X in 4:1-6**

**33X in 4: 1-17**

---

**James 4: 1**

## **2 Progressive Questions**

**What is the source of quarrels and conflicts among you?**

A diagnostic question. From where?

Source = *pochen* in Greek – the origin

**Is not the source your passions that wage war within you?**

The rhetorical diagnosis. “Your selfish heart” is the origin

# The Essence of Sin is Selfishness

Passions – *hedonon* in Greek – the root word for hedonistic  
**Hedonism:** our wants and desires as the main goal in life

**Luke 8: 14,** And the seed which fell among the thorns, these are the ones who have heard (the Gospel), and as they go on their way, they are choked with the worries and riches and *pleasures* of this life and bring no fruit to maturity.

# Selfish Desires

The war  
within us

**1<sup>st</sup> Peter 2: 11**, Beloved, I urge you, as sojourners and exiles to abstain from the passions of the flesh, which wage war against your soul.

**2<sup>nd</sup> Timothy 3: 2 - 4**, People will be lovers of self, lovers of money, proud, arrogant, and abusive.....ungrateful, unholy, heartless...lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God

# James 4: 2a - Continued Origin Answer

## Broken Commandments



**4: 2a**, You desire and do not have, so you murder. You covet and cannot obtain, so you fight and quarrel.

#6 – Thou shall not murder  
#10 – Thou shall not covet

---

# Quarrelling: A Sign of Selfishness

**Quarrelling:** having a heated argument or disagreement

*Mache* in Greek – weaponized words of conflict

**Proverbs 17: 4**, The beginning of strife is like letting out water, so quit before the quarrel breaks out.

**Proverbs 20: 3**, It is an honor for a man to keep away from strife, but every fool will be quarrelling.

# Spiritual Leaders Must Not Be Quarrelsome!

**2<sup>nd</sup> Timothy 2: 24**, And the Lord's servant must not be quarrelsome but kind to everyone, able to teach, patiently enduring evil.

**Titus 3: 2**, To speak evil of no one, to avoid quarrelling, to be gentle, to show perfect courtesy toward all people.





## James 4: 2b – 3 Wrong Prayers?

**4: 2b**...you do not have, because you do not ask. (Not Praying)

**4: 3**, You ask and do not receive, because you ask wrongly, to spend it on your own passions.

(Selfish Prayers)

# People at War With Themselves - **Wiersbe List**

Don't pray for others – only self

Don't enjoy life – complain all the time

Don't get along with other people – other people fail them

Always look for easy or magic fixes – don't trust God

See God as only Judge – not Father

Take their anger at God and turn it against others (quarrelers)

Struggle to pray – to be a priority – only trust self

---

## James 4: 3-4

# Root of the Origin of Our Selfish Hearts: The World

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.



---

# **Every War - Internal or External - is Rebellion Against God**

“Adulterous people” Old Testament phrase – trusting anything other than God – especially other nations, other leaders, other philosophies and priorities of life.

Breaking the covenant of faithful love, adoration, devotion, obedience, and servitude with the Lord.



## **James 4: 4 More Commandments Broken**

- #7 - You shall not commit adultery
- # 1 – No other Gods before Me
- #2 – No idols / worshipping anything else

**Hosea 9: 1, Rejoice not, O Israel! Exult not like the peoples; for you have played the whore, forsaking your God.**

# Jesus: Adulterous Generation

**Matthew 12: 38 – 39**, Then some of the scribes and Pharisees answered him, saying, “Teacher, we wish to see a sign from you. But Jesus answered them, “An evil and adulterous generation seeks for a sign, but no sign will be given to it except the sign of the prophet Jonah.”



# Signs Shown before **Matthew 12**

Turning water into wine (John 2:1-11)

Cleansing a leper (Matt. 8:1-4),

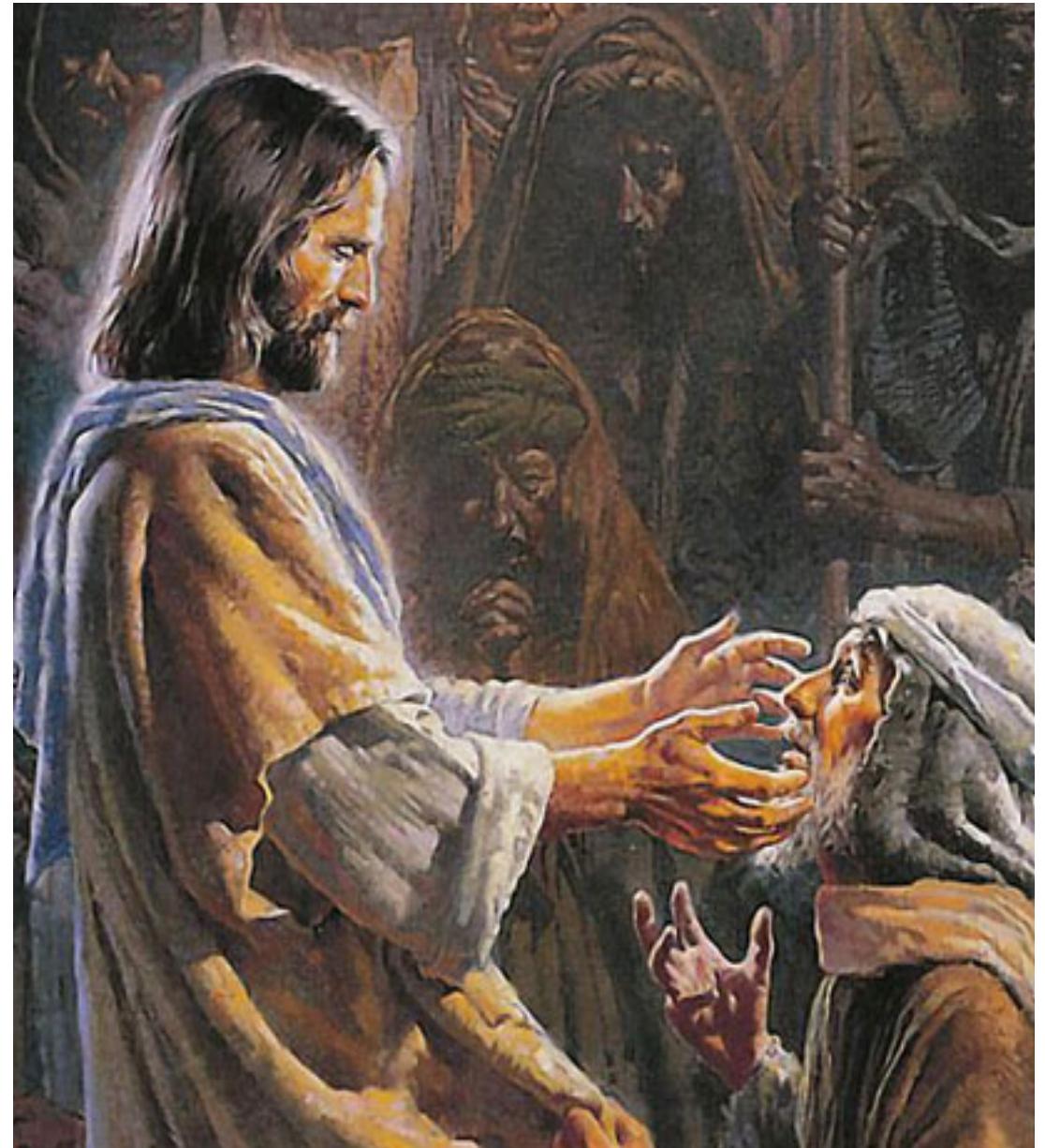
Healing centurion's servant (Matt. 8:5-13)

Calming a storm (Matt. 8:23-27),

Casting out demons (Matt. 8:28-34)

Healing a paralyzed man (Matt. 9:1-8)

Raising Jairus' daughter (Matt. 9:18-26)





# Friendship with the World: A Progression

World: anything in society that is contrary to God / His Word

Stained by the world – James 1: 27

Seeking approval of the world – Gal 1: 10

Loving the world – 1<sup>st</sup> John 2: 15 – 17

Conformed to the world – Romans 12: 2

Condemned with the world – 1<sup>st</sup> Cor 11: 32

## **1<sup>st</sup> John 2: 15 - 16**

Do not love the world or the things in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him. For all that is in the world – desires of the flesh and the desires of the eyes and the pride of life – is not from the Father but is from the world.



---

# God Gives Us up to the World if We Choose it

**Romans 1: 28 - 32,** Since they did not see fit to acknowledge God, God gave them up to a debased mind to do what ought not to be done. They were filled with all manner of unrighteousness, evil, covetousness, malice. They are full of envy, murder, strife, deceit, maliciousness. They are gossips, slanderers, haters of God, insolent, haughty, boastful, inventors of evil, disobedient to parents, foolish, faithless, heartless, ruthless. Though they know God's righteous decree that those who practice such things deserve to die, they not only do them, but they give approval to those who practice them.



# A JEALOUS GOD

CHARLES SPURGEON

---

**James 4: 5**

## **2<sup>nd</sup> Rhetorical Question**

Or do you suppose it is to no purpose that the Scripture says, “God yearns jealousy over the Spirit that He has made to dwell in us?”

# Jealous God



**Exodus 20: 5**, I, the Lord your God, am a jealous God.

**Deuteronomy 4: 24**, For the LORD your God is a consuming fire, a jealous God.

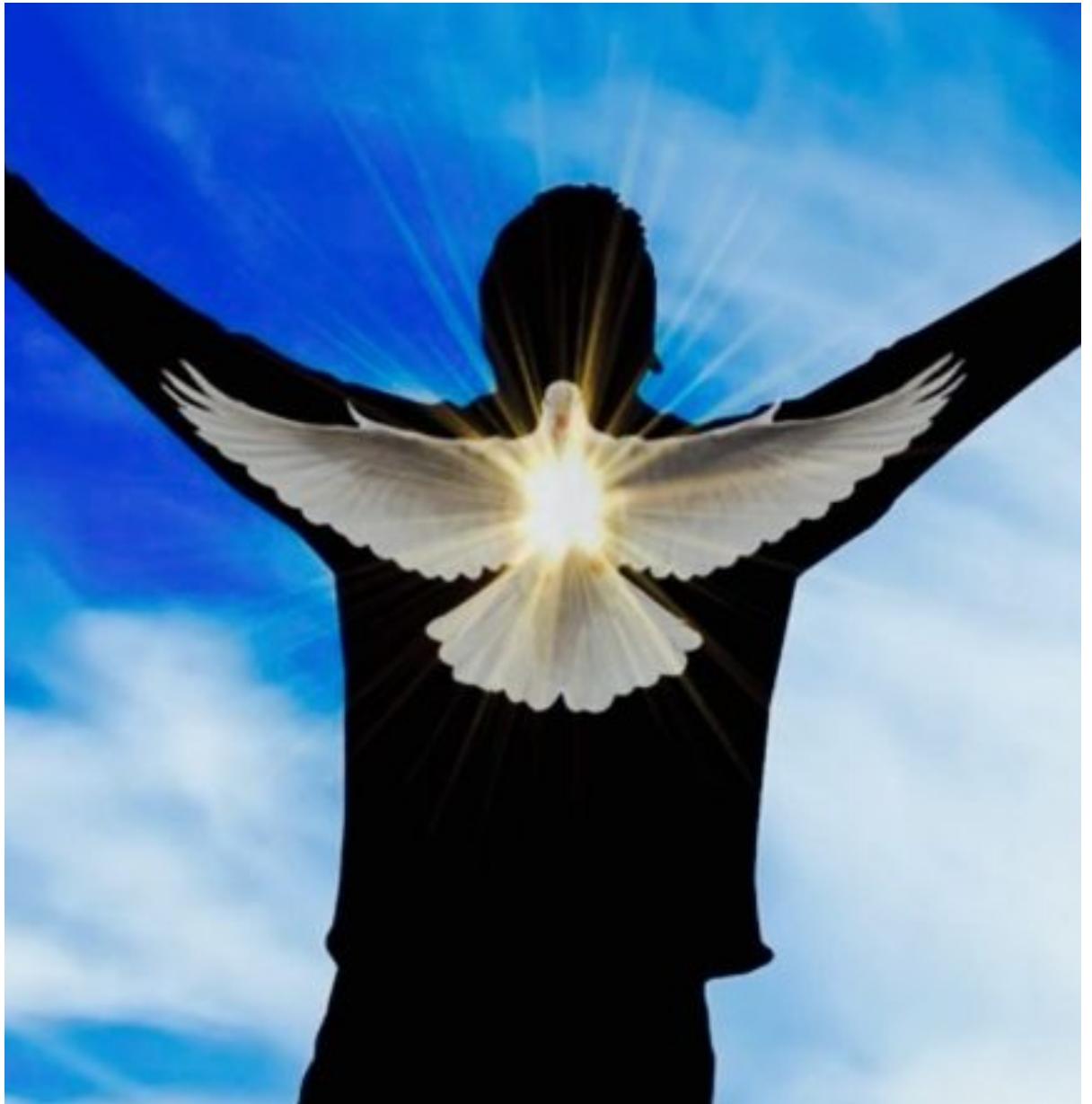
**Matthew 6: 24**, No one can serve two masters.

# Spirit of God in Us

**John 14: 17**, He lives with you and will be in you.

**Romans 8: 9**, You, however, are not in the flesh but in the Spirit...

**1<sup>st</sup> Corinthians 3: 16**, ...you are God's temple and that God's Spirit dwells in you?



---

# Grieving the Holy Spirit in Us

**Ephesians 4: 30 – 32,** And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, by whom you were sealed for the day of redemption. Let all bitterness and wrath and anger and clamor and slander be put away from you, along with all malice. Be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, as God in Christ forgave you.

# Christ Centered Life



Our purpose, goal, focus, ambitions, discipline, drives, desires, passions, adoration, and worship all to Jesus.

**Matthew 6: 33**, Seek Ye first the Kingdom of God

**January 25<sup>th</sup>**

**James 4: 6 – 12**

**Christ Centered  
Life – Part 2**

