

October 9, 2016

**James - Faith That Works**

*What Disturbs Peace?*

Pastor Rick Rufenacht



James 4:1-10

**Peace is disturbed by *personal passions*.**

**Peace is disturbed by *friendship* with the world.**

Ps 24:1      1 John 2:15 -16

**Peace is disturbed by *pride*.**

Ps 51:2-12

## Desires

When was the last time you were in a serious fight or quarrel with another person? What caused the conflict? Was there anything you could have done to prevent it?

Read James 4:1-3. What are the selfish desires that capture your attention? What desires do you see that capture the attention of many in our culture?

What can we do to align our desires with God?

Read Psalm 37:4 and Psalm 145:19.

Without being too simplistic, what do we see as the path for right desires? How do you think God expects that these scriptures will “flesh out” in our lives?

If we have right desires, how might that help our relationships?

## The World

James says stop loving this evil world and all that it offer you, for when you love these things you show that you do not really love God; for all these worldly things, these evil desires-The craze for sex, the ambition to buy everything that appeals to you, and the pride that comes from wealth and importance-These are not from God, they are from this evil world itself.

James says that “anyone who chooses to be a friend of the world becomes an enemy of God.”

What did Jesus say about God and the world? (Matthew 6:24, John 15:18-19)

How can we live in the world and not be of the world?

Read Matthew 5:13 - 16 and Colossians 4:6

Explain how we are to be impacting the world without embracing it? How can we fulfill our mission and still adhere to James 4:4-5?

( 1 John 2: 15-16)

After reading the above verses, what do you take from them that honestly affects you personally? For example: how can pride in self or belongings turn you away from God?

When we seek the pleasures of this world, we forget the importance of our relationship with our Lord.

Can we be in this world but still not be of this world? Think of all the tv shows, movies, videos, music and tv commercials that we are bombarded with on a daily basis, how do we resist the false messages they give us?

Read Phil 4:10-13

How can an attitude like Paul’s help us to live in this world with better attitudes?

What kind of things have to happen in our lives to get us to this place of contentment?

James says God gives grace to the humble. How do contentment and humility connect?

## Think About It

“You do not have because you do not ask God.” God invites us to ask him for the things our hearts long for. What is one desire of your heart that you would ask God for? How have you been pursuing this desire apart from God? What does it look like for you to trust God with this?