

James 4:3-6: Spiritual Idolatry, Spiritual Adultery, & the Spiritual Remedy

Introduction

The fuel of every conflict you have is your desires; not *evil* desires (not lusting after something inherently evil), but desires at times for good things that have become *inordinate desires*.

1. The Verdict Proclaimed

- There's something even deeper going on in this text, because our conflict-causing desires aren't only imbalanced and inordinate, they're *idolatrous*.
- Adultery = I am willing to go outside the covenant relationship of marriage to get pleasure.
- God's Word accuses God's people of being spiritual adulterers (v 4), spiritual murderers, and spiritual idolaters (v 2).

Coveting, killing others in murder, committing adultery, craving idols, all are sins forbidden by the Ten Commandments and all are sins that can take place inside us, not just in our outward actions.

- Ezekiel 14:3
- Isaiah 40:12-18
- Ephesians 4:22
- I John 2:15-16
- Titus 3:3
- Jeremiah 2:11-13

2. The Cause Presented

- Ephesians 5:5
- James 4:4
- James 4:2
- James 3:16

3. The Solution Proposed (v 10ff)

- Submit to God
- Resist the Devil
- Draw near to God
- Cleanse your hands (1 John 1:9)