



## The Danger of Living Without God James 4:1-12

### I. Self-Centered Living Destroys Relationships (vv. 1-3)

- A. What is the \_\_\_\_\_ of your argument? (vv. 1-2a)  
[Rom. 7:23; 1 Pet. 2:11]
- B. What is the \_\_\_\_\_ of your argument? (v. 2b)  
[Matt. 5:21-22; 15:19-20]
- C. What is the \_\_\_\_\_ to your argument? (vv. 2c-3)  
[1 Jn. 5:14]

### II. Self-Centered Living Displeases God (vv. 4-6)

- A. God's \_\_\_\_\_ is better than the world's friendship (v. 4)  
[1 Jn. 2:15; Jn. 15:19; Heb. 11:24-25]
- B. God's \_\_\_\_\_ for us is stronger than our flesh (v. 5)  
[Ex. 34:14; Ezek. 36:26-27; 1 Cor. 6:19]
- C. God's \_\_\_\_\_ is given freely to the humble (v. 6)  
[Prov. 3:34; 1 Pet. 5:5; Isa. 66:2]

### III. Self-Centered Living Demands Repentance (vv. 7-10)

- A. \_\_\_\_\_ to God (v. 7a)  
[Lk. 2:51; Rom. 13:1; Eph. 5:21-14; 1 Pet. 2:18]
- B. \_\_\_\_\_ the devil (v. 7b)  
[Eph. 2:1-5; 1 Pet. 5:8-9; Eph. 4:27; 6:11]

- C. \_\_\_\_\_ near to God (v. 8a)  
[Phil. 3:7-9; Isa. 29:13; Mk. 7:6; Psa. 73:28; Heb. 4:16]
- D. Be \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ (v. 8b)  
[Ex. 30:18-20; 1 Jn. 1:9; 1 Kgs 18:21; Psa. 24:3-4]
- E. \_\_\_\_\_ over your sin (v. 9)  
[Psa. 51:17; Matt. 5:4]
- F. \_\_\_\_\_ yourselves (v. 10) [Isa. 6:5; Matt. 23:12]

### IV. Self-Centered Living Denies God as the True Judge (vv. 11-12)

- A. Do not speak evil against one \_\_\_\_\_ (v. 11a)  
[Matt. 18:15; Matt. 7:1]
1. What good does it do for \_\_\_\_\_?
  2. What good does it do for \_\_\_\_\_?
  3. What good does it do for God's \_\_\_\_\_?
- B. Do not speak evil against the \_\_\_\_\_ (v. 11b)  
[Rom. 14:14; Jms. 2:8]
- C. Do acknowledge \_\_\_\_\_ as the one lawgiver and the only judge (v. 12) [Isa. 33:22; Jms. 5:9]

### TAKE HOME

- Do you realize that when you are in an argument that is a sign of self-centeredness? How can you approach a challenging conversation in a way that \_\_\_\_\_ God?
- Being self-centered reveals that you are friends with the world. How do you submit to God, resist the devil, and \_\_\_\_\_ close to God?
- Speaking evil of others demonstrates that we are self-centered. How can you be a \_\_\_\_\_ of God's Word and let God be the Judge?

## STUDY QUESTIONS

James 1:22 says, *“But be doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving yourselves.”* These questions are designed to help you apply today’s message to your life. We encourage you to thoughtfully answer these questions and discuss your answers with others. For more information about joining a small group that uses these questions as the basis for discussion, prayer, and accountability, please visit our website at [placertachurch.com](http://placertachurch.com).

1. Read James 4:1-2. What is the cause of your arguments? What do you so often think the cause is? What should you do about it? Rom. 7:23; 1 Pet. 2:11; Matt. 5:21-22; 15:19-20)

2. Read James 4:3. What does this verse suggest as the solution to the problem? How does that work? (1 Jn. 5:14)

3. Read James 4:4-6. How does self-centered living displease God? How do you struggle with this in your own life? How does God giving greater grace encourage you? (Prov. 3:34; 1 Pet. 5:5; Isa. 66:2)

4. Read James 4:7. How do you seek to apply these verses in a practical way? What does this look like in your everyday life? (Lk. 2:51; Rom. 13:1; Eph. 5:21-14; 1 Pet. 2:18; Eph. 2:1-5; 1 Pet. 5:8-9; Eph. 4:27; 6:11)

5. Read James 4:8-10. How do you draw near to God? What do you love about this promise? (Phil. 3:7-9; Isa. 29:13; Mk. 7:6; Psa. 73:28; Heb. 4:16) How can you cleanse your hands and purify your heart?

6. Read James 4:11-12. How does self-centered living deny God as the true Judge? Matt. 18:15; Matt. 7:1; Rom. 14:14; Jms. 2:8) How can you find the fine line between judging and confronting in love?

7. Read the take home questions. Which one challenged you or encouraged you the most? Why? How will you apply what you learned from this passage in your life this week?

*“He giveth more grace when the burdens grow greater,  
He sendeth more strength when the labors increase,  
To added affliction He addeth His mercy,  
To multiplied trials His multiplied peace.”*