

GET OFF THAT FENCE!

James 4:1-10

November Sermon Series:
All Day. Every Day.
Messages in James
November 21, 2021

Choosing friendship with God over friendship with the world

LET'S GET STARTED

God detests halfhearted commitment to Him, and He calls believers to uncompromising faithfulness. In this message, James points out reasons why lukewarm devotion displeases God and why we should go "all in" as we follow Jesus.

LET'S HEAR THE WORD

WHAT IS WORLDLINESS?

1 John 2:15-17—¹⁵ Do not love the world or anything in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him.

¹⁶ For everything in the world—the cravings of sinful man, the lust of his eyes and the boasting of what he has and does—comes not from the Father but from the world. ¹⁷ The world and its desires pass away, but the man who does the will of God lives forever.

John MacArthur—Worldliness is the sin of allowing one's appetites, ambitions, or conduct to be fashioned according to earthly values.

David Wells (*Losing Our Virtue*)—[Worldliness is] that system of values, in any given age, which has at its center our fallen human perspective, which displaces God and his truth from the world, and which makes sin look normal and righteousness seem strange. It thus gives great plausibility to what is morally wrong and, for that reason, makes what is wrong seem normal.

Worldliness is living with the attitudes, pursuits, and lifestyles of

Quotable

[When anyone] uses the term 'born again' to describe American church-goers whose lives are indistinguishable from the world, and who sin as much as the world, and sacrifice for others as little as the world, and embrace injustice as readily as the world, and covet things as greedily as the world, and enjoy God-ignoring entertainment as enthusiastically as the world—when the term 'born again' is used to describe these professing Christians, [people are] making a profound mistake. It is using the biblical term born again in a way that would make it unrecognizable by Jesus and the biblical writers.

—John Piper

If you would like to know more

Worldliness: Resisting the Seduction of a Fallen World, by Craig Cabaniss, Dave Harvey, Bob Kauflin, Jeff Purswell (Crossway, 2017)

GET OFF THAT FENCE! (James 4:1-10)

JAMES' TEACHING ABOUT COMPROMISE

- Compromised living is _____ (vv. 1-3).

¹ What causes fights and quarrels among you? Don't they come from your desires that battle within you? ² You want something but don't get it. You kill and covet, but you cannot have what you want. You quarrel and fight. You do not have, because you do not ask God. ³ When you ask, you do not receive, because you ask with wrong motives, that you may spend what you get on your pleasures.

- Halfhearted commitment puts you at _____ with _____ (vv. 4-5).

⁴ You adulterous people, don't you know that friendship with the world is hatred toward God? Anyone who chooses to be a friend of the world becomes an enemy of God. ⁵ Or do you think Scripture says without reason that the spirit he caused to live in us envies intensely?

- Returning to God requires _____ (vv. 6-10).

⁶ But he gives us more grace. That is why Scripture says: "God opposes the proud but gives grace to the humble." ⁷ Submit yourselves, then, to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you. ⁸ Come near to God and he will come near to you. Wash your hands, you sinners, and purify your hearts, you double-minded. ⁹ Grieve, mourn and wail. Change your laughter to mourning and your joy to gloom. ¹⁰ Humble yourselves before the Lord, and he will lift you up.

Warren Wiersbe—No matter how badly we have failed, we can always get up and begin again. Our God is the God of new beginnings.

LET'S LIVE IT

If you would like to speak to any of our Pastors about a spiritual need in your life, here is their contact information:

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You may also discover what the Bible says about how to become a Christian by visiting the following page on our website: <http://www.crowfieldbaptist.org/salvation/>