

AD 44– Persecution: Churches were IN Homes...Spiritual Fellowship...Family

Js. 4:1 Where do wars and fights *come* from among you? [PI. - Satan’s working]

These Pastors – Deacons – Church Families Have Faces & Names

Do *they* not *come* from your *desires* for pleasure that war in your members? [Flesh – Own Wisdom/Motives – Leadership/Church/Family Collapse]

Remember: A Church can Spiritually Die in Silence – What Does that Look like?

1. You lust and do not have. [I want – I Deserve – I would do anything 4]
➤ ἐπιθυμέω *ēpithumēō*, *ep-ee-thoo-meh'-o*; to set the heart upon [Here BUT NOT]
2. You murder [Hate] and covet and cannot obtain. [Led by Emotion/Feeling]
○ ζηλώω *zēlōō*, *dzay-lō'-o*; to have warmth of feeling for or against:
3. You fight and war. [Life] Yet you do not have because you do not ask. [Independence – No Prayer Meetings – Indifferent to God’s Direction]
4. ³You ask and do not receive, because you ask amiss [Living in Sin], that you may spend it on your pleasures. [Christ NOT attached - Vine]

What is a WILLFUL SINNING Church/Christian/Child to do ?

Take it out on Credit – remortgage – parents – ‘I Need vs God’s Plan’

Adulteresses! [PI. -fem – Left 1st Love - ‘Found Ashamed’ – Blemished]

Do you not know that friendship [fondness] with the world is **enmity** with God? [ἐχθρα *ēchthra*, *ekh'-thrah*; hostility; a reason for opposition:—enmity, hatred.

[GOD HATES THESE THINGS – Proverbs 6:16]

These six *things* the LORD hates,

Yes, seven *are* an abomination to Him:

- 17 A proud look, [Independence, Self Serving -consumed -focused]
A lying tongue, [Manipulation, self agenda, no regard for others]
Hands that shed innocent blood, [Abuse – Neglect – Abandonment]
- 18 A heart that devises wicked plans, [Self motives – Satan/world attract.]
Feet that are swift in running to evil,
- 19 A false witness *who* speaks lies, [Harming the Family Unity thru _____]
And one who sows discord among brethren.

[Adulteresses] Whoever therefore **wants** to be a friend [‘dear’ -benefits] of the world **makes himself** an **enemy** of God.

[What does this Look like @ The Judgment Seat of Christ?]

- ‘wants’ - βούλομαι *boō'-lom-ahee*; to “will,” i.e. (reflex.) *be willing*
- ‘makes himself’ - καθίστημι *kath-is'-tay-mee*; to *place down* (permanently)
- ‘enemy’ - ἐχθρός *ēchthrōs*, *ekh-thros'*; from ἐχθω *ēchthō* (to hate); *hateful*
 - The [Sinning brethren] **bring on THEMSELVES** The ‘Hatred of God’

Israel had a SWITCH: Temple -son of Hinnom – High Places – Shema @ Meal
Church: 1 hr per wk – Social/Me – Enter./Sports/Travel/more Me - Grace

Satan is IN the Church – Christian Homes: See the ‘world’ – Collapse - RUIN
[WHY? God HATES IT - God is against HIM – SIN – THEM - YOU]

- Remove Lampstand – Fight against you – Remove your crown [plural context]
- This EXPLAINS the Collapse of the ‘Bible Belt’ – Generations in WILLFUL SIN

James Gives God’s Biblical Principles on ‘Wisdom’ from Proverbs 3 (+ or -?!)

⁵ Or do you think that the Scripture says in vain, “The Spirit who dwells in us ‘*yearns jealously*’?” [Speaking to the Quoted Prov. 3:34 – Grace 20-26]

⁶ But μείζονα [Greater (Scripture says)] δέ δίδωσι [Spirit gives] χάριν [grace].

Therefore He says:

“God resists the proud, But gives grace to the humble.”

[God deals with WILLFULL Sin: Leaders/Church/Christians – He’s AGAINST YOU]

- ‘jealously’- φθόνος *phthōnōs*, *fthon'-os*; ill-will, i.e. *jealousy (spite): For/against*
- Resist - ἀντιτάσσομαι *antitassōmai*, Military term -to BATTLE against

[Knowing that God is JUDGING ALL Leadership – CHURCH – FAMILY’s WILLFUL SIN]

⁷ Therefore submit to God. [B/c YOU are NOT...]

- ὑποτάσσω *hupōtassō*, to *subordinate* [under other’s control]; Military -obey:
- 1. Resist the devil and he will flee from you. [pl. -You’ve already said Yes - No]
- ἀνθίστημι *anthistēmi*, *anth-is'-tay-mee*; to *stand against*, i.e. *oppose*:
- 2. ⁸ [Draw near] to God and He will [draw near] to you. [Separated]
- 3. Cleanse *your* hands, *you* sinners; and purify *your* hearts, *you* double-minded. [You are Unclean – Impure – ‘flip flopping’ hypocrisy]
- 4. ⁹ Lament and mourn and weep! [Recognize YOUR sin & the AFFECTS]
- 5. Let your laughter be turned to mourning and *your* joy to gloom.
- Find godly sorrow & repentance – Respond to the Word.

¹⁰ Humble yourselves in the sight of the Lord, and He will lift you up.

- Sinner - Look @ YOUR life – be humiliated & brought low b/c of sin
- Church – Examine yourselves (Plural) – We MUST be BROUGHT LOW

How did the Deacons Boards – Churches – Christian Homes get to this place?

Own Wisdom - Closed Bibles – Dead Faith – Spiritual Silence

How Do We Fix this?!.....We START OVER!!

1. **Submit & Separate** – From the World – Distractions – Bend the KNEE FULLY
2. **Battle Against/ Severe** – All ties that Satan is USING in Life – Church family.
3. **Draw Near** – (As a Church-Pl.) in Spiritual Obedience and Fellowship.
4. **Get Right...Until we Know we ARE Right!!** – Prayer – Study – Fellowship times
5. **Deal with the Painful STUFF** – Circumcise YOUR hearts – Reflect it in your Lives

You CAN’T DO this for SOMEONE (You Can Help) – Don’t Pretend it’s all OK