

Sermon Series: James

Date: September 27, 2015

Title: Warning Against Worldliness

Text: James 4:1-10

Introduction:

What is worldliness? Those heart affections, attitudes or activities that pertain to the world (“kosmos”), that world system that is presently controlled by Satan (1 John 5:19) and his evil forces and principles, and which is opposed to God’s kingdom rule and His followers who promote *godliness*.

Romans 12:1-2 is key—not letting the world squeeze us into its mold, but be radically transformed by the renewing of our minds!

Body of Lesson:

There are three evidences of worldliness in our text today, and each has a corresponding root problem and spiritual solution to that problem. I’ll also give an example of each problem from my experience in DRC, as well as a practical application for us in the USA and at MBC today.

Evidence of Worldliness	Root Problem	Spiritual Solution	Example from DRC	Practical Application
Enmity of brothers (4:1-3)	Wars and fights	Recognize that the origin of the root problem is the desire for [hedonistic] pleasures	Tribalism (Tutsi vs. Hutu); Radical Islam beginning to exploit leadership void; Church leaders not immune from conflicts!	Prayer is essential; reverse the process
Erosion of morals (4:4-5)	Unfaithfulness over time; called “adulterers and adulteresses”	Make right choices; remember the one who “yearns jealously for us”	AIDS & corruption; compounded by rape; Plesion 3 natural products (Aloe Vera Capsules, Artemisia Annuia Tablets, Whey Protein Powder)	Christians and the church play a huge role
Elevation of self (4:6-10)	Pride	Humility; achieved by: submitting to God, resisting the devil; and drawing near to God	Witchcraft; likened to rebellion (1 Sam. 15:23); not just in the DRC!	Actively model true humility

Conclude with brief update about future plans and prayer needs.