



### FAITH IN ACTION Series

#### James 4:1-12 - Gotta Serve Somebody

##### James 4:1-5

- Vs 1-2 – Outward conflicts the result of inward desires gone wrong.
- Vs 3 - Wrong motives leading to unanswered prayer.
- Vs 4-5 – Our conflict with people are a symptom of our rebellion against God.
- God has a rightful claim over his people – therefore he is a jealous God!
- Israel – God’s people – was covenanted to Him as in a marriage. (Isaiah 54:1-6; Jeremiah 2:2, 3:20 – see also Hosea).

##### James 4:6-10

- Vs 6 – He gives more grace to the humble

##### 4 things we must do:

- 1) Submit to God (vs 7a). “Submit” in Greek *hypotassō* - "be subject, to yield".
- 2) Resist the devil (vs 7b) - cf Matt. 4:1-10.
- 3) Draw near to God (vs 8a)
- 4) Weep and mourn over our sins (vs 8b-9)

*“James is no killjoy, denying any place for laughter and joy in the Christian life. But ‘laughter’ in the Old Testament and Judaism is often the scornful laughter of the fool (Eccl. 7:6; Sirach 27:13) who blithely refuses to take sin seriously.... For this reason Jesus warned: ‘Woe to you who laugh now, for you will mourn and weep’ (Luke 6:25b). Mourning and weeping on the day of God’s judgment can be avoided if people mourn and weep for sin now.”*

Douglas Moo, *James: An Introduction and Commentary*, Tyndale New Testament Commentaries, Vol 16, IVP Academic: Downers Grove, 2009, page 142

- Vs 10 – Humble yourselves (cf vs 6 and Proverbs 3:34)

##### James 4:11-12

- See Matthew 18:15-18

**Where do you stand with God today?**