



## A Friend of God

James 4:1–10 · Wyong Baptist Church

**BIG IDEA:** Friendship with God is available to you — and it changes everything about how you live.

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### 1. Friendship With the World (v.4)

- James warns against making the world's values your 'soul mate'.
  - Worldliness isn't about culture — it's about what organises your life.
  - 'Double-souled': saying you believe in God but living as though he doesn't exist.
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### 2. Why It Matters — Disordered Desires (vv.1–2)

- Fights and quarrels come from desires that battle within us.
  - When good things become things we 'have to have', they become disordered.
  - Envy asks one relentless question: 'What about me?' — and it spills into community.
  - Consumerism is a cancer for church — it turns worship into a transaction.
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### 3. A Friend of God (vv.7–8)

- 'Friend of God' is Abraham's title — a person who believed God and it was credited as righteousness.
  - If Jesus is our soul mate — our over-desire — everything changes.
  - We are free to enjoy good things as gifts, not gods.
  - Come near to God and he will come near to you. That is not a threat. It's an open door.
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### 4. What Friendship Looks Like in Practice

- Accept one another — admonish one another — bear one another's burdens.
  - Confess to one another — forgive one another — pray for one another.
  - Spur one another on — serve one another — love one another.
  - This kind of community cannot happen in two hours on a Sunday. It is a choice.
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### How Do We Respond?

- Submit to God — resist the devil — and he will flee from you. (v.7)
  - Come near to God — in prayer, in Scripture, in honest community.
  - Identify one area where the world's organising principle has displaced God's.
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In Jesus I find my worth and identity. He is working out his plans in this world — plans that include me for all eternity — and my life will be governed by the overarching principle of loving God and loving others as myself. That is not a burden. That is the best life available to a human being.

***“Come near to God and he will come near to you.” — James 4:8***

# The One-another Statements

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- **Accept one another** Rom. 15:7
- **Admonish one another** Col. 3:16
- **Bear one another's burdens** Gal. 6:2
- **Build up one another** Rom. 14:19
- **Care for one another** 1 Cor. 12:25
- **Comfort one another** 1 Thess. 4:18
- **Confess to one another** James 5:16
- **Be devoted to one another** Rom. 12:10
- **Forgive one another** Eph. 4:32
- **Honour one another** Rom. 12:10
- **Be kind to one another** Eph. 4:32
- **Love one another** Rom. 13:8
- **Pray for one another** James 5:16
- **Serve one another** Gal. 5:13
- **Spur one another on** Heb. 10:24
- **Submit to one another** Eph. 5:21

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This kind of community cannot happen in two hours on a Sunday morning. It is an investment — a choice to be friends in the lives of others. But it is that kind of connection that will shape us, that will change our church, that will change the coast.