

Discussion Questions

Describe some “people problems” you’ve experienced lately.

How have these problems revealed wrong desires in your heart?

Examine your recent prayer requests. What 2 words would you use to describe them?

What do our prayer requests reveal about our desires?

What areas of your life are friendly with the world?

What steps will you take to humble yourself before God this week?

Why’s My Life Out of Tune

James 4:1-6

The reason for earthly discord (1-3).

It is no secret that wherever people live, so do problems. From catfights to cold shoulders, losing a temper to leaving a marriage, it is apparent that strife and discord affect the majority of relationships. Where does all of this fighting come from? It comes from unfulfilled desires (i.e. lusts) in our hearts. Our relationships are a perfect barometer of our hearts.

The reality of heavenly discord (4-5).

A more serious discord exists. We are concerned about human discord because it affects what we want to do, but we are far less concerned (even aware) of existing discord between us and heaven. As we’ve embraced the world and its values, we’ve brought enmity between us and God. God is a jealous God, and we have been caught in spiritual adultery.

The resolution of all discord (6).

The discord between God and us, and between other people and us can only be resolved one way. God’s grace must work in us to draw us back to Him, and to defeat the sinful passions of our heart. This grace will be poured out in our hearts in great measure as we humble ourselves before our good and gracious God.