

Are We Friends Of The World Or Friends Of God?

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James 4:4

The book of James is inspired of God and is very practical in content. Such everyday actions as the use of our tongues, helping the fatherless and the widows, being careful not to show respect of persons, helping those in need, and restoring brothers and sisters who have sinned. We are all interested in having friends and being friends, and James talks about this, too.

James issued a warning concerning friendship. He says, James 4:4, *“Ye adulterers and adulteresses, know ye not that the friendship of the world is enmity with God? whosoever therefore will be a friend of the world is the enemy of God.”*

On the other hand, James identifies the faithful Abraham as one who was *“called the friend of God.”* James 2:23, *“And the scripture was fulfilled which saith, Abraham believed God, and it was imputed unto him for righteousness: and he was called the Friend of God.”*

What does it mean to be a friend of the world?

James 4:4, *“Ye adulterers and adulteresses, know ye not that the friendship of the world is enmity with God? whosoever therefore will be a friend of the world is the enemy of God.”*

I read where a group of teen-agers were to write down what they thought it meant to be a friend of the world. Here is a composite of their answers:

"Hide the fact that you are a Christian. Let people believe that you are not a Christian."

Remember Peter. Matt. 26:69-74, *“Now Peter sat without in the palace: and a damsel came unto him, saying, Thou also wast with Jesus of Galilee. But he denied before them all, saying, I know not what thou sayest. And when he was gone out into the porch, another maid saw him, and said unto them that were there, This fellow was also with Jesus of Nazareth. And again he denied with an oath, I do not know the man. And after a while came unto him they that stood by, and said to Peter, Surely thou also art one of them; for thy speech bewrayeth thee. Then began he to curse and to swear, saying, I know not the man. And immediately the cock crew.”*

"Go along with friends that do evil."

- Exo. 23:2, *"Thou shalt not follow a multitude to do evil; neither shalt thou speak in a cause to decline after many to wrest judgment."*
- 1 Cor.15:33, *"Be not deceived: evil communications corrupt good manners."*

"Cursing, drinking alcoholic beverages, smoking."

- Eph. 4:29, *"Let no corrupt communication proceed out of your mouth, but that which is good to the use of edifying, that it may minister grace unto the hearers."*
- Proverbs 23:29-35, *"Who hath woe? who hath sorrow? who hath contentions? who hath babbling? who hath wounds without cause? who hath redness of eyes? They that tarry long at the wine; they that go to seek mixed wine. Look not thou upon the wine when it is red, when it giveth his colour in the cup, when it moveth itself aright. At the last it biteth like a serpent, and stingeth like an adder. Thine eyes shall behold strange women, and thine heart shall utter perverse things. Yea, thou shalt be as he that lieth down in the midst of the sea, or as he that lieth upon the top of a mast. They have stricken me, shalt thou say, and I was not sick; they have beaten me, and I felt it not: when shall I awake? I will seek it yet again."*
- 1 Cor. 6:19-20, *"What? know ye not that your body is the temple of the Holy Ghost which is in you, which ye have of God, and ye are not your own? For ye are bought with a price: therefore glorify God in your body, and in your spirit, which are God's."*

"Listening to dirty Jokes; Going to sinful movies."

- Phil. 4:8, *"Finally, brethren, whatsoever things are true, whatsoever things are honest, whatsoever things are just, whatsoever things are pure, whatsoever things are lovely, whatsoever things are of good report; if there be any virtue, and if there be any praise, think on these things."*

"Wearing immodest clothing."

- 1 Tim. 2:9, *"In like manner also, that women adorn themselves in modest apparel, with shamefacedness and sobriety; not with broided hair, or gold, or pearls, or costly array,"*

"Putting things before the church (example: ball game)."

- Matt. 6:33, *"But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you."*
- Heb. 10:24-26, *"And let us consider one another to provoke unto love and to good works: Not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as the manner of some is; but exhorting one another: and so much the more, as ye see the day approaching. For if we sin wilfully after that we have received the knowledge of the truth, there remaineth no more sacrifice for sins,"*
- Acts 20:7, *"And upon the first day of the week, when the disciples came together to break bread, Paul preached unto them, ready to depart on the morrow; and continued his speech until midnight."*
- 1 Cor. 16:2, *"Upon the first day of the week let every one of you lay by him in store, as God hath prospered him, that there be no gatherings when I come."*

"Conforming to the world."

- Rom. 12:1-2, *"I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service. And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God."*
- 1 John 2:15, *"Love not the world, neither the things that are in the world. If any man love the world, the love of the Father is not in him."*
- James 4:4, *"Ye adulterers and adulteresses, know ye not that the friendship of the world is enmity with God? whosoever therefore will be a friend of the world is the enemy of God."*

"Slowly begin accepting what the world does as if it were all right."

- Heb. 2:1, *"Therefore we ought to give the more earnest heed to the things which we have heard, lest at any time we should let them slip."*

What does it mean to be a friend of God, as was Abraham?

Believe God.

Abraham did so (James 2:23). We like to have friends whom we can trust. It is impossible for God to lie and Abraham knew it. Therefore, he put his trust in God and did what He said regardless of what God asked him to do. God called him His friend.

Obey God.

Heb. 11:8, *“By faith Abraham, when he was called to go out into a place which he should after receive for an inheritance, obeyed; and he went out, not knowing whither he went.”*

It is impossible to be a friend of God without obeying what he says. Have you repented and been baptized for the remission of sins? If not, do you think you can be a friend of God?

Worship God.

Over and over it is said in Genesis 12-15 that he *“built an altar unto Jehovah.”* What a privilege it is to worship Jehovah! Abraham did so and he was called the friend of God.

Be assured that God can fulfill His promises.

Abraham was fully assured that what God had promised, he was able also to perform.

Rom. 4:21, *“And being fully persuaded that, what he had promised, he was able also to perform.”*

Just as God fulfilled the promise of a son to Abraham, so God has promised eternal life to all who obey Him. God is able!

Conclusion.

Choose to be a friend of God and not a friend of the world!

